



Knut now wants Kaimenyi fired

P. 6 Teachers' union threatens to call national strike to force out Education Cabinet Secretary



Raila calls for fresh elections

Back Page Cord leader says going back to the ballot is the only way of saving Kenya from total collapse

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INVESTIGATION | Situation in House on the Hill described as tense as top security officials demand answers over air debacle

Revealed: Why President's plane returned to Nairobi

■ Official jet may have entered neighbouring country's airspace without prior clearance

■ Questions are being asked how the military okayed the departure over a war zone

■ Government's advance team of ministers already in the US for conference

■ Trip cancellation leaves Kenyans in America in state of confusion [Pages 2&3](#)

Inside Uhuru's State House

BY SUNDAY NATION TEAM
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President Uhuru Kenyatta runs a highly centralised national administration with significant differences from his two predecessors in which trust is the key passport for entry into the inner circle.

Weeks-long interviews with insiders in the Kenyatta Government painted a picture of a President who, at the halfway point of his first term, has become confident enough to bring changes and oust most of President Kibaki's core appointees while seeking to steer his government towards a private-sector led approach, all the time eyeing the 2017 presidential election.

But the differences between Mr Kenyatta and his predecessors are clear. Where Mr Kibaki prized competence

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



INDEX News **P. 2-11, Back**

Opinion **P. 12-13**

Letters **P. 14**

Sunday Review **P. 15-32**

Business **P. 34-37**

International **P. 38-40**

Sport **P. 42-47**

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FOREIGN TRAVEL | Poor planning may have forced abrupt return to Nairobi

Questions over President's bungled trip

Necessary clearances to overfly airspace in neighbouring country may not have been sought

BY VINCENT ACHUKA

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The unprecedented cancellation of President Uhuru Kenyatta's trip to the US on Thursday night may have been caused by bungled planning that forced the abrupt return home of the Head of State.

Sources familiar with the cancellation said that the necessary clearances to overfly air space in a neighbouring country may not have been sought. The sources said when the President's plane entered the foreign airspace, the air controllers were taken aback and opened communication with the aircraft.

Military aircraft

It is not clear what transpired in the communication but soon after the President's jet was making a U-turn for Nairobi.

The fact that the presidential jet is a military aircraft seemed to have complicated the situation, the source added.

State House was tight-lipped on the saga save for Friday's terse statements announcing the return of the President and that he would not be making the trip.

Other sources attributed the debacle to the long-standing territorial dispute between Ethiopia and Eritrea while the official State House version blamed the sudden turn-around on "heightened military activity in Yemen".

The President was travelling to Dubai using his official jet on Thursday night where he was supposed to connect to Los Angeles, US, by a commercial flight to attend the Milken Institute Global Conference.

The explanation offered by the official communication channel appeared baffling because the war in Yemen has been ongoing for the last two months and the authorities in the troubled country partly reopened the airspace last week after a three-week closure.

Indeed a Kenya Airways flight 310 to Dubai which left JKIA 15 minutes after the President's jet made it safely to destination.

Yesterday, tough questions were being asked at top levels of government with those who sanctioned the flight and protocol people appearing to be on the spot.

"People will be called to account," the source said.

"The situation is tense and nobody knows what might happen next."

The Kenya Government has been fully aware of the war situation in Yemen and has been actively evacuating Kenyans living and working in that country, with some of those rescued from the conflict having arrived in Nairobi by air only last weekend.

A retired Kenya Air Force



President Uhuru Kenyatta with Deputy President William Ruto and other government officials at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport before taking the later-to-be-aborted trip to Los Angeles.

officer has told the *Sunday Nation* that travel by the Head of State is meticulously planned beforehand and coordinated between the military and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Survey the route

Colonel (rtd) Eutychus Waitaha, a pilot who has worked for the squadron that handles VIP travel in the military, said that before a decision to make a trip is made another unit, the Military Intelligence Unit, has to survey the route in advance for any danger the Commander-in-Chief may face.

This rules out the possibility that the team that handled President Kenyatta's travel had no prior information about the situation in Yemen. "The intelligence unit works in a similar way to the National Intelligence Service but for national defence purposes or in times of war," said Col Waitaha.

"Intelligence does a report which is handed to the Air Force Commander who then makes a decision whether the trip can be made," he said.

According to the retired officer, the President's plane may have either returned

because of a diplomatic lapse or failure to follow the strict procedures demanded for military VIP travel.

"Flights by the President's plane require strict coordination between the military and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as he is a diplomat," he said.

The President's official jet, a Fokker 70 medium range jetliner, is managed by the VIP squadron of the Kenya Air Force. As Commander-in-Chief, whenever he is travelling by air within or outside the country, all the logistics are handled by this particular unit.

"The President's plane does not have a flight code since it is not a scheduled flight. However, when planning, the ministry must get an Aeronautical Information Publication clearance from all the countries the flight will pass through," he said.

The publication and itinerary is then passed to the Kenya Civil Aviation Authority which keys it into the international flight path management system. This enables route controllers to give it special separations from other aircraft while in the sky.

Navigation concerns

The President, who was travelling to Dubai using his official jet on Thursday to connect to the US using a commercial flight, made a U-turn for Nairobi after covering almost half of the distance, citing navigation concerns.

Yemen closed its airspace on March 25 due to a Saudi Arabian-led coalition aerial bombing campaign against Houthi Shiite rebels in support of the country's embattled leader Abedrabbo Mansour. However, it has since reopened a section of it to airlines even though warnings over the airspace remain.

The mystery about the aborted trip has deepened since commercial flights be-

tween Dubai and Nairobi have continued including on the night that President Kenyatta returned home following the aborted trip.

International civil aviation experts say that given the time that President Kenyatta landed back at the Jomo Kenyatta Airport — 11.42 p.m. — it is highly likely that the jet made a U-turn in Ethiopian airspace.

Sources say that the Ethiopian Government had made contact with Nairobi over the aborted trip — which is unprecedented in Kenya's international presidential travel. The *Sunday Nation* has learnt that Addis Ababa had sent a top official to Nairobi over the matter.

Already, part of the Presidential entourage including Cabinet secretaries Fred Matiang'i and Amina Mohammed are in the US. They were in mid-journey when the President returned home.

According to the Presidential Strategic Communication Unit, the President and his entourage left the airport shortly before 7 p.m. on Thursday evening. It means that the jet was airborne for about four hours and 42 minutes.

War-torn country

National carrier Kenya Airways, which runs daily flights to Dubai, has confirmed that for the last one week it has been flying over the war-torn country including one that departed just 15 minutes after the President's jet.

"Airlines have been cleared to use the airspace once again which we have been doing for the last one week, cutting the flight time by two hours," Kenya Airways' corporate affairs manager Wanjiku Mugo said.

Four other flights, three by Emirates and another one by Kenya Airways, left Jomo Kenyatta International Airport for Dubai on the same day.

Under the Chicago Convention signed in 1944, each country is responsible for assessing civil aviation conflict zone risks in their territories, and for making that information promptly available to other states and airlines.

However, since the downing of Malaysian Airlines flight M17 in Ukraine last year, the International Civil Aviation Authority, a specialised UN agency which coordinates and regulates international air travel, set stricter rules with regard to flying over conflict zones.

This included the creation of Fail Safe channels that make it mandatory for each state to make available to civil aviation authorities a secured website accessible by all civil aviation authorities.

The Kenya Civil Aviation Authority registers all flight plans of aircraft leaving the country. Sources at authority say the President's flight was registered and cleared before taking off for Dubai.

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DAILY NATION

LOS ANGELES | President cancelled tour after his flight was forced back to Nairobi

Convicted felon would have hosted Uhuru US conference

Billionaire Michael Milken – ‘the epitome of Wall Street greed’ – was jailed for 22 months and fined \$200 million for six counts in 1990

BY KEVIN J KELLEY
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The man behind the conference in the United States that President Uhuru Kenyatta decided on Friday not to attend is described on his website as a “philanthropist, financier, medical research innovator and public health advocate.”

Michael Milken, the 68-year-old host of the event that begins today in Los Angeles is also a convicted felon.

Mr Milken pleaded guilty in 1990 to six felony charges involving securities fraud and conspiracy. He paid a \$200 million fine and served 22 months in prison. His case attracted wide attention at the time, with some critics depicting Mr Milken as the epitome of Wall Street greed in the 1980s.

Entering his plea in a federal courtroom 25 years ago on April 25, Mr Milken was quoted by the *New York Times* as declaring: “I transgressed certain of the laws and regulations that govern our industry. I was wrong in doing so and knew that at the time and I am pleading guilty.”

During his 20-year career on Wall Street, Mr Milken became known in the media as “the junk bond king”.

The term refers to bonds that carry a high risk of default but can pay higher yields than more secure bonds.

Although Mr Milken played a key role in developing a market for this type of financial instrument, his admitted offences did not involve “junk bond” trading.

Some analysts see him as a pioneer in making capital more productive.

Mr Milken’s charitable giving predates his legal troubles by several years. He co-founded a family foundation in 1982 and a few years later endowed



Mr Michael Milken, 68, engages participants in one of his conferences.

PHOTO | COURTESY

a chair at a Harvard Medical School cancer centre.

The three-day conference taking place in Los Angeles is the 18th annual edition of a global gathering organised by the Milken Institute. It describes itself as a “non-profit, non-partisan economic think tank whose scholars lead an international dialogue on solutions in the areas of economics, health, human capital, demographics and capital markets.”

Decision makers

Milken Institute officials say the conference draws “3,500 decision makers from 50 nations.”

Rwandan President Paul Kagame is among those taking part this year.

President Kenyatta cancelled his plan to fly to Los Angeles for the conference after his initial flight bound for Dubai was forced to return to Nairobi

on Thursday night, reportedly because of unsafe conditions in airspace over Yemen.

Despite Mr Milken’s tarnished reputation, some bold-face names have not shied from taking part in the annual conference. In 2013, for example, former British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Microsoft billionaire Bill Gates both spoke along with Mr Kagame on a panel entitled “Investing in African Prosperity.”

Last year, the institute sponsored a summit in London that focused in part on investment and infrastructure development in Africa. The meeting drew a bevy of CEOs and managing directors from the developed world’s finance and commercial sectors, with representation by firms such as Citi, Bank of America, GE and GlaxoSmith-Kline. Kenyan executives joined in discussions on capital formation in

Trip cancellation surprises Kenyans in United States

BY BMJ MURIITHI

LOS Angeles, California

News that President Uhuru Kenyatta’s trip to the United States had been cancelled caught many by surprise and threw the Kenyan Embassy in Washington, DC and the Los Angeles consulate into a spin on Friday.

The trip was cancelled at the last minute following what State House referred to as “increased military activity in Yemen”.

A source at the Kenyan embassy said everything was going per plan. “The President’s schedule throughout his stay in California had been finalised. His hotel was ready, and all other arrangements, including his security detail while in the state of California, were all elaborately done” said the source on Friday who sought anonymity as they are not authorised to speak to the media.

“As you are aware, this is unprecedented, and we are in contact with the Foreign Affairs office in Nairobi seeking guidance on how to handle the issue going forth,” she added.

Efforts to reach Kenya’s ambassador to the US, Mr Robinson Njeru Githae, were unsuccessful as his cell phone went unanswered.

A statement sent to the *Sunday Nation* by the Kenyan embassy on Friday evening sought to assure the more than 1,300 Kenyans who had registered for the Town Hall-style forum with the President that the meeting would go on and “we will deliver the President’s message”.

The US trip was aimed at marketing Kenya as an attractive foreign investment destination at the Milken Institute Global Conference, which begins today in Los Angeles and ends on Wednesday.

A spokesperson at Milken Institute said on Friday the event organisers had not received official communication on the cancellation of Mr Kenyatta’s trip.

Following the new development, President Paul Kagame of Rwanda will be the only sitting head of state of attend the conference.

Mr Kenyatta was also scheduled to meet yesterday with Kenyans in Los Angeles.

A ballroom at the Los Angeles Airport Hilton Hotel had been booked to its 1,300 capacity by Kenyans who were eager to meet President Kenyatta and his entourage.

On Thursday evening, the embassy posted the following on its website: “We wish to inform you that the above-mentioned event is now full to capacity. A total of 1,300 people have registered. We look forward to a successful and engaging discussion with the President.”

Hundreds of Kenyans from across the United States had already travelled to the venue of yesterday’s meeting while others were preparing to do so.

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GOVERNANCE | President is seen on a near-daily basis by Chief of Staff, security chiefs and Secretary to the Cabinet-nominee

A peep into the Uhuru Kenyatta

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

above all else and paid little heed to loyalty – which led to an effective but unstable government – Mr Kenyatta is said to value trust more than any other virtue and detests unauthorised leaks to the media.

According to those familiar with the Kenyatta State House, among the lieutenants Mr Kenyatta trusts most are his private secretary Jomo Gecaga, a close relative who is often to be found quietly at his side in public and in private, and his younger brother Muhoho Kenyatta.

“When President Uhuru had a case at the ICC (International Criminal Court), it was MK (Muhoho Kenyatta) who was handling that when his brother was running the government. He comes to State House nearly on a daily basis. He is a sharp guy,” a source said.

First Lady Margaret Kenyatta, who is said to have lifted the gloom which attended State House due to the reputed difficult interpersonal relations First Lady Lucy Kibaki had with residential staff, is another important confidante.

On the formal issues of government operations, President Kenyatta is seen on a near-daily basis by several technocrats including Chief of Staff Joseph Kinyua, security chiefs and Secretary to the Cabinet-nominee Monica Juma.

Another key adviser is Kenya's ambassador to the United Nations Environmental Programme, Prof Martin Kimani. “These are the people who you see the President talking to on a daily basis. They are among the few with express entry,” sources working at State House told the *Sunday Nation*.

On a normal day, President Kenyatta meets several clusters of people. “I can categorise the type of people he interacts with into six. His family, strategic thinkers, delivery people, security cluster, his friends and the political class. His life revolves around these people,” the source, who cannot be named discussing the President, said. Inside

his strategic thinkers' circle is his constitutional adviser Abdikadir Mohamed, Environment Cabinet Secretary Judy Wakhungu, Solicitor-General Njee Muturi, Chief of Staff Kinyua, State House spokesperson Manoh Esipisu, Dr Juma, and Prof Kimani.

When the President wants something done, he has his delivery people cluster largely comprising members of the Cabinet. But Devolution CS Ann Waiguru, Treasury CS Henry Rotich, Treasury PS Kamau Thugge, and Agriculture PS Cecily Kariuki see him frequently.

In addition to Cabinet meetings, President Kenyatta is said to give special attention to certain CSs depending on the magnitude of their undertaking at any given time.

For instance, Interior CS Joseph Nkaissery is a frequent visitor to State House by virtue of his arduous docket, as are security chiefs.

Apart from Deputy President William Ruto, one of the most consistent visitors to State House, who comes almost every morning, is the Interior Principal Secretary.

Until last week, the position was occupied by Ms Juma who has since been nominated Secretary to the Cabinet. Maj-Gen (rtd) Gordon Kihlangwa has been nominated Interior PS and is expected to take up the heavy task that includes frequent briefings to the President.

Others who regularly come to State House are Chief of the Kenya Defence Forces Julius Karangi, Inspector-General of Police Joseph Boinnet, Speaker of the National Assembly Justin Muturi, Leader of Majority in the National Assembly Aden Duale, Senate Majority Leader Kithure Kindiki and Solicitor-General Njee Muturi.

Unlike Mr Kibaki, who relied on a close-knit group of long-time golfing buddies, sometimes referred to as the “Muthaiga club”, Mr Kenyatta's kitchen Cabinet is mostly made up of state officials.

President Kenyatta receives security briefs twice a day from



3 cars

President told his Deputy Ruto that he must use at least three cars when on low key travel

General Karangi, who is soon to be replaced by General Samson Mwathethe, National Intelligence Service boss Philip Kameru, Gen Nkaissery and the recently appointed Inspector-General of Police Joseph Boinnet.

In the evening when he relaxes, some of his close friends including Raymond Matiba, Francis Michuki and his long-time political ally and now vice-chairman of the Jubilee Alliance Party David Murathe meet him, when he is not catching up with the family. Other close friends are Mr Bruce Odhiambo, who is chairman of the Youth Enterprise Development Fund, and businessman Moses

Nderitu linked to Excloosive – a mobile toilets services provider.

President Kenyatta's style contrasts markedly with that of his predecessors. Mr Kibaki had little time for small talk and social engagements but is said by confidantes to have been extremely engaged any time someone came to him to discuss issues relating to the development budget. He had little interest in recurrent expenditure which he said was the province of bureaucrats such as his trusted head of public service, Mr Francis Muthaura.

Mr Kibaki's emphasis on competence, which saw him tap into the brains of the likes of Dr Mukhisa Kituyi, Prof Anyang' Nyong'o, Mr David Mwiraria, Mr Kiraitu Murungi, Ms Martha Karua, Mr Raila Odinga and others with whom he served in the Opposition in the 1990s is credited with helping to turn around the economy.

But unlike Mr Kenyatta, Mr Kibaki did not place great premium on trust and friendship, meaning his administration was rocked by numerous leaks and wrangles which hobbled the government.

President Moi, like Mr Kenyatta, took the counsel of a closed circle of trusted aides but unlike Mr Kenyatta President Moi had a presence in virtually every issue in which the government was engaged, famously calling even District Officers in remote parts of the country for briefings.

Paradoxically, the administration of founding President Jomo



Mr Jomo Gecaga, Uhuru's private secretary.

Kenyatta bore closest resemblance in the decision-making chain to the Kibaki one in terms of the power Cabinet ministers wielded to make autonomous decisions.

As they approach mid-term, President Kenyatta and Deputy President William Ruto have moved to promote the role of the private sector in decision-making including the establishment of a presidential delivery unit to be headed by Mr Nzioka Waita, who was brought in from mobile phone giant Safaricom.

According to insiders, President Kenyatta is said to be a good listener and trusts his close aides' thinking but is often left behind with Chief of Staff Kinyua after meetings, possibly to discuss the execution stage or to help him arrive at a plan of action.

President Kenyatta is said to be protective of his relatives and friends and those who work closely with him. On one occasion last year, Mr Ruto drove to State House in a personal car with one bodyguard. President

IN COMPARISON

Moi steered a highly secretive ship and for the longest time

Of all the four presidents since independence, Daniel Toroitich arap Moi's was the most enigmatic, if only because he occupied State House for the longest – some 24 odd years. Mr Moi ran a highly secretive ship, and a tight leash on government operations. Arguable the most influential of his advisors appear to have been the man who served

for long as his private secretary Joshua Kulei, his long-time spy chief James Kanyotu, a one-time powerful Internal Security PS Hezekiah Oyugi and Kanu kingpins from around the country that he elevated or demoted at different times depending on the political calculations of the moment.

President Kibaki introduced a new system of running his government that had not been exercised before.

Mzee Kenyatta would often work from State House and then commute to his Gatundu home for the night. He occasionally invited official and other meetings to Gatundu.

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State House

President packs his bags and moves into house on the hill



FILE | NATION
President Uhuru Kenyatta and Deputy President William Ruto with members of the National Security Council at State House, Nairobi, at a past meeting.



Mr Muhoho Kenyatta, Uhuru's younger brother.



Mr Joseph Kinyua, Uhuru's Chief of Staff.

Kenyatta was upset.

"The President was shocked. He told Ruto that he must use at least three cars when on low key travel. Do you know Ruto was not allowed to leave State House until his motorcade arrived?" the source said. He also personally ordered that a detachment of his presidential guard be sent out to search and rescue the Deputy President's spokesman David Mugonyi who had been carjacked as he went home in March last year.

Those with whom he works call him "Boss" because he dislikes being called Mheshimiwa.

A prominent feature of the Kenyatta State House is the Presidential Strategic Communication Unit (PSCU) which replaced the Presidential Press Service (PPS).

The unit is headed by Mr Esipisu who is also the secretary of communications. Under Mr Esipisu are senior directors Munyori Buku, Dennis Itumbi, James Kinyua, Munira Mohammed and Eric Ng'eno.

Mr Esipisu, a long-serving journalist, arrived from the African Development Bank where he was the special assistant to the bank's president. He also worked at the Commonwealth Secretariat in London, where he was Spokesperson and Deputy Director of Communication and Public Affairs.

On the other hand, most of his deputies have been with Mr Kenyatta from his time as opposition leader.

The unit has been criticised for incoherent and sometimes insensi-

tive statements targeting perceived political opponents of President Kenyatta. The latest one was the hashtag "Enough of sideshows #2yearsofsuccess" when the country was in deep mourning following the killing of 142 students at the Garissa University College by the Al-Shabaab.

But it is the Presidential Delivery Unit which will be the key unit to watch going forward. The PDU, which gauges the performance of the government, comprises a team of seven who are supposed to give an independent and realistic picture of his successes and failures. It is headed by the newly-appointed Mr Waita, formerly director of Corporate Affairs at Safaricom.

The PDU is the brainchild of former Britain Prime Minister Tony Blair and has offices at the KICC.

The team meets President Uhuru on a monthly basis to brief him on progress made on his flagship projects such as Standard Gauge Railway, primary school electrification programme and road construction.

Mr Kenyatta is said to love simplicity and does not seek to project himself as President when attending private meetings.

Early in April, while attending a funeral of a relative, the President rode to Langata cemetery in three personal vehicles accompanied mainly by family members, just to be sure that state protocol did not upset an otherwise private event.

BY SUNDAY NATION TEAM
sundaynation@ke.nationmedia.com

President Uhuru Kenyatta has moved from his private residence on Nairobi's Dennis Pritt Road to State House to allow major construction work and a security upgrade.

In the last few weeks, corrugated iron sheets have been erected around the fence of the President's private residence, sandwiched between Dennis Pritt Road and State House.

Sources initially told the *Sunday Nation* that a wall was being built to enhance security at the house that is cheek by jowl with the road, but indications now are that construction of a new house has begun in the compound after the main building was demolished.

President Kenyatta has been living at his private house, inherited from his father Mzee Jomo Kenyatta, and which could be accessed directly from State House.

But his office is at State House where he regularly receives delegations and holds Cabinet meetings.

Seat of power

A State House spokesman, Mr Munyori Buku, agreed to answer some questions from the *Sunday Nation* but declined to confirm information provided by anonymous sources.

However, multiple sources indicate that by the time Mr Mwai Kibaki left office in 2013 — after a two-term presidency that started with the starry-eyed Narc administration of 2003 and ended with the cantankerous Grand Coalition — State House, considered the ultimate seat of power and privilege in Kenya's political milieu, is said to have been unkempt.

"The grass had grown to knee-length and the hedges were untrimmed. Some parts of the main house were dirty. In a word, State House was untidy," said a long-serving civil servant who spoke in confidence, adding that even the curtains had to be changed.

The state of affairs was largely attributed to then First Lady Lucy Kibaki, who was said to have hounded most of the staff out of the House.

Not even the State House Comptroller, the most senior official in the residence, was spared back then.

In incidents that became public knowledge, Mr Matere Keriri, Mr Kibaki's friend and confidant, was the first to be unceremoniously kicked out followed by Mr Hyslop Ipu and later Dr Nelson Githinji (now director of the National Youth Service).

Mrs Kibaki, however, seemed to have assumed a low profile during her husband's second term and rarely appeared in public. "The First Lady was unpredictable, and did not like having too many people around," said the staffer.

According to an official whose experience straddles both the Kibaki and Uhuru administrations, even the kitchen was bare.

Whenever there were visitors, food would be brought from a five-star hotel.

In 2012, Mr Kibaki's spokesman, Mr Isaiah Kabira, was forced to deny "inaccurate reports ... that trivialise State House operations" after information emerged that the head chef had been sacked.

Under President Kenyatta, normalcy seems to have resumed in the

State House kitchen. Indeed, last year, some members of the Presidential Strategic Communication Unit (PSCU) stirred some interest on social media when they posted a photograph taken at State House in which they posed with a man they identified as the President's chef.

In contrast, First Lady Margaret Kenyatta is described as "likeable and humble". She has made a name for herself for organising the Beyond Zero marathon in the last two years to raise funds for maternal health, and completing the London Marathon last year.

Our sources say she enjoys jogging around the State House grounds on most mornings and rarely interferes with the staff.

Unlike the First Lady, President Kenyatta has not been spotted engaging in any outdoor exercises. That is perhaps why Deputy President William Ruto has in the past publicly taunted him to go to the gym.

Mr Ruto ran this year's Beyond Zero marathon and has, in a number of interviews, revealed that the gym is part of his daily routine.

The First Lady, who has office space at the National Social Security Fund building, prefers to work from State House where she meets delegations and runs her charity activities.

President Kenyatta is also described by the staff who spoke to us as a gentleman who always stops to greet and chat with his staff when he is strolling on the grounds.

"He always says 'hi' by waving or shaking your hand with a firm grip and asking 'Mambo namna gani?' or 'Mambo sawa sawa?' (Is everything alright?)," says a State House staffer who requested anonymity.

Mr Jomo Gecaga, the President's private secretary, is constantly at his boss's side. The other officials who work closely with the President daily are Chief of Staff Joseph Kinyua, State House Comptroller Lawrence Lenayapa and members of the communications team headed by Mr Manohar Esipisu.

"As private secretary, Mr Gecaga deals with crucial and critical matters and is the interface between the private and the official," said Mr Buku.

Mr Gecaga worked as a personal assistant to the President while he was Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance. He also worked in the ministry of Foreign Affairs where he served as personal assistant to Senator Moses Wetang'ula, then the minister.

Multiple interviews indicated that the President does not usually hold early morning meetings.

But, according to Mr Buku, the President is an early riser who starts his day at about 5 a.m. and stays up until 1 a.m. at times.

"He is very hands-on and believes that as Head of State, he must be on top of things," said Mr Buku. "He believes he must give clear direction on many national matters and his sole goal is to change the welfare of Kenyans for the better."

In a previous interview with the *Sunday Nation*, former Interior Cabinet Secretary Joseph ole Lenku said the President would even call him late in the night to keep abreast of matters security and described him as "very firm".

According to Mr Buku, the President's family members are hardly seen at State House and he keeps his relations on that side "very private".

President Moi was often said to be an early morning riser who would be in his office at State House, meticulously dressed, from as early as 5 a.m.

His successor was, however, portrayed as a man who was saddled with the health effects of a road accident during the 2002 election campaigns. Mr Kibaki is said to have often woken up late.

Soft and alcoholic drinks

One apparent change from the Kibaki years is that the canteen at State House has once again been fully stocked with soft and alcoholic drinks for invited guests.

Mr Kibaki had stopped drinking and that is said to have influenced the decision to make State House alcohol-free.

Renovations have been made to a gazebo in the grounds and two men said to be specialists in preparing *nyama choma* have been hired.

"Beef — boiled or roasted and prepared the same way as any local pub — is his favourite meal," says a source close to the presidency.

Even though sources say security has been heightened at State House, interviews with staffers indicate there is confusion over some of those who have access. Some of them are said to be the President's friends while others were involved in the Jubilee campaigns.

A recent example that attracted public attention was the uncertainty over the role of Mr Patrick Ngatia, who was thought to be a State House official in charge of liaison.

He, however, later clarified he was the President's personal employee and was not on the government's payroll.



FILE | NATION

President Uhuru Kenyatta's office at Harambee House

ULTIMATUM | 'Let Education CS sink alone, or he will sink the government,' President told

Knut: Fire Kaimenyi or face strike

Union says Cabinet Secretary is mis-managing education sector and vows to urge its members to down tools from May 2 until another Cabinet Secretary is appointed

BY CHARLES WANYORO
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Kenya National Union of Teachers has threatened to mobilise its members to push the President to fire Education Cabinet Secretary Jacob Kaimenyi.

The union claims Prof Kaimenyi is mismanaging the education sector. Its top officials say they will urge the over 240,000 members to down tools from May 2 until another CS is appointed.

Led by Knut Secretary-General Wilson Sossion, the teachers said they were disappointed by Prof Kaimenyi's issuance of contradictory directives.

They added that they would not shelve the strike threat even if he rescinded the regulation that head teachers would be reporting to him.

Failure to consult

Speaking at Embu Moi Stadium during celebrations to mark the branch's Golden Jubilee celebrations, Mr Sossion accused Prof Kaimenyi of failure to consult on key matters.

"It is upon President Uhuru Kenyatta to allow Kaimenyi to sink the government or to let him sink alone since teachers won't allow him to continue undermin-

ing them. We will embark on a strike to remove him and it will be the first of its kind in the history of the country," he said.

His remarks were echoed by Embu executive secretary John Gitari, who said area teachers had long lost confidence in the Cabinet Secretary.

Mr Sossion said teachers were demanding the closure of Garissa University College and Garissa Teachers' College due to security reasons, adding that they would ask all teachers not to report to the teachers' college when it reopens.

Prohibitive rates

Knut also vowed to move to court to block the implementation of the newly-revised and gazetted National Hospital Insurance Fund monthly contributions, saying they were prohibitive.

Mr Sossion said they had not approved the new rates since the fund did not involve them when revising the scheme.

He warned that if the Teachers' Service Commission deducts more money from teachers' salaries to remit to the fund, they will take firm action, including going on strike.

Mr Sossion asked the fund to start a dialogue with teachers so that the new rates are agreeable to all.



BILLY MUTAI | NATION

Kenya National Union of Teachers secretary-general Wilson Sossion (right) confers with Central Organisation of Trade Unions secretary-general Francis Atwoli. The union says it will block the new National Hospital Insurance Fund monthly contributions.

He said the union was collecting signatures of all teachers to present to the global meeting of teachers in Geneva in October to compel the government to increase funding in education.

He said an increased education budget would help overcome barriers that have seen more than three million Kenyan children skip school, and continued cases of female genital mutilation.

Garissa college shut for fear of terrorist attack

BY ABDIMALIK HAJIR
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A second institution of higher learning in the northeastern part of the country has been closed indefinitely after the government allegedly failed to provide armed security for the institution.

The Kenya Medical Training College Garissa Campus was shut down yesterday.

College Principal Omar Osman said they closed the college after the Garissa County Commissioner said the government had no security personnel to deploy to the institution that housed 250 students.

"We were told the government has no such arrangements," he said.

The heads of the college, he said, could not risk the lives of the students after Al-Shabaab killed 148 people at nearby Garissa University College on April 2.

But Balamala sub-county commissioner James Kianda, who is standing for the deputy commissioner for Garissa Dominic Kyenza, said he was not aware that anyone had requested for security and been denied. "It's not possible for any institution or an individual to ask for security and be denied," he said.

Mr Osman said the affected students would be transferred to other campuses in Kapenguria, Kabarnet, Thika, Murang'a and Kitui.

See also page 31.

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STAR WARS | The teaser is already breaking records

Lupita’s new movie turning heads, eyes

The flick will be released in December but broke the record of most- viewed trailer on day one with 88 million views

BY VINCENT ACHUKA
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“ Previous instalments in the long running science fiction film have been huge financially and in mass appeal”

D. Telegraph

In spite of the fact that the next big movie starring Kenya’s celebrated Hollywood actress Lupita Nyong’o is still seven months away from its December 17 premiere, a *Star Wars 7-The Force Awakens* teaser is already causing ripples in the movie industry. Just a week after release, the teaser for the movie is breaking records, showing great promise for what has been hailed by Hollywood pundits as the most anticipated movie of 2015. Although it lasts just 1 minute 47 seconds, everything else about the teaser put on video sharing site YouTube late last week is huge. It is nearly breaking the internet, has shattered the stock price of its production company in the process at the New York Stock Exchange and to put the icing on the cake, Japanese Airline All Nippon Airways has launched a Star Wars-themed Boeing 787 Dream Liner in a five year deal with

Walt Disney. According to the official Star Wars website the trailer was viewed 88 million times on its first day, wrecking the 62 million record previously held by *Fast and Furious 7*, *Vengeance Hits Home*, which was released last month. Financially, Walt Disney, the multimedia conglomerate that is producing the movie, earned \$2 billion (approximately Sh180 trillion) in 24 hours after its share price rose by 1 per cent to \$108.30 as investors rushed to buy shares in anticipation of the huge profits the film is expected to make once it is released. By Friday, the stock price had risen to \$109.3. And online, social platform Twitter was barraged by an avalanche of tweets using the hashtag #StarWars that has been trending globally for the past week. “Previous instalments in the long-running science fiction film since the first one was released in 1977 have been huge both financially and their mass appeal. Four of the six released so far are ranked among the top 10 top-grossing films of all time,” said UKs *Daily Telegraph*. Typical of films in the *Star Wars* franchise, the plot details and the roles of some of its characters have not been released so it is not yet clear what role Lupita plays. The Oscar-winning actress joined 19 other stars to film the movie early last year including Harrison Ford, Carrie Fisher, Mark Hamill, Peter Mayhew



and Anthony Daniels. Only two new actors, including Lupita, were added for the production of the film. According to the producers, the story is set 30 years after the events in 1983’s *Star Wars 6: Return of the Jedi*. Carrie Fisher and Mark Hamill will reprise their roles as Princess Leia and Luke Skywalker. Harrison Ford who appears in the teaser released last week will return as Han Solo. However, director JJ Abrams told reporters in California this week the movie will present another ‘substantial’ female character raising speculation that the daughter of Kisumu Senator Anyang’ Nyong’o may play a leading role. Although the Kenyan star featured in the action film *Non Stop* released last year she only did so as an air hostess and is yet to make an appearance in a major role in a movie since making her global big screen debut with her role as Patsey, a slave on a Louisiana cotton plantation in the award-winning movie *12 Years a Slave* in 2013. The role earned her nominations for several other awards including a Golden Globe Award for Best Supporting Actress, a BAFTA Award for Best Actress in a Supporting Role and two Screen Actors Guild Awards including Best Supporting Actress, which she won. She was also awarded the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress, becoming the sixth black actress to win the award, the first African actress to win the award and the only Kenyan to ever win an Oscar. Apart from *Star Wars* she is currently filming *The Jungle Book*, an animation movie, which she voices the character Raksha and *Queen of Katwe*. Both are set for release in 2016.

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BEATIFICATION | Residents worried businesses close early and town may not fully benefit economically

Flurry of activity over nun event

County now licensing residents interested in hosting guests

BY JAMES NGUNJIRI
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In less than 25 days, Nyeri County will be hosting an international event that has thrown the county government into a quandry over how to make it a success.

Everything started with the Vatican announcement last June of the beatification ceremony of an Italian-born Consolata Missionary nun Sister Irene Stefani in Kenya on May 23 at the place where she lived and died.

That place is Gikondi area in Nyeri County. Pope Francis has already assigned a representative who will preside over the ceremony expected to attract about 300,000 people from around the world.

Beatification is the step in the process of the Roman Catholic Church that declares a person blessed as he or she approaches canonisation and sainthood.

With days to the event, both the county and national governments seem to have realised the magnitude of the event and what it means to the economy.

In the past week various high-powered delegates meetings have been held in Nyeri town all with one agenda: How to make the event a success in all respects.

Several appeals have been made by the Catholic Church in Nyeri to speed up the rehabilitation of various roads leading to Gikondi Catholic Parish in Mukurwe-ini to make it easier for visitors to



The organising committee of the beatification ceremony of Sister Irene Stefani visit the recently excavated site last Thursday where the Catholic missionary house used to be and where she died at Gikondi in Mukurwe-ini.

CHRONOLOGY

Events leading to the day

June 2014: Vatican makes announcement of the beatification of Sister Irene Stefani at Gikondi Catholic Parish

May 22, 2015: A vigil Mass preceding the actual event

May 23, 2015: The actual day of beatification of the nun who served the community and died at 39. Visitors from the United States, the Vatican, Spain, Mozambique and Tanzania have arrived ahead of the day for preparations

access the site. The beatification ceremony will begin with a vigil Mass on May 22 at the rural town of Gikondi.

"This road (Gatitu-Mukurweini) is in a pathetic condition, and some international delegates have started arriving in readiness for the event. They are coming to see where their leaders (seniors) will be accommodated," said Father Peter Githinji, a priest in the Archdiocese of Nyeri overseeing the preparations.

The rehabilitation is underway, but church officials and residents say work is proceeding at a snail's pace.

Some church delegates from Vatican City, the United States, Spain, Mozambique and Tanzania have visited Nyeri to see the levels of preparedness.

"We are just worried about the state of the roads in that part of Mukurwe-ini. Very

little has been done despite both the national and county governments promising us to do something ahead of the event," the church officials told the *Sunday Nation*.

But some residents are worried the town may not adequately exploit the visit for economic gain since Nyeri town literally goes to sleep by 9.30 p.m. Most restaurants, shops, butcheries and money transfer service shops close as early as 7.30 p.m.

But the department of land announced they had started registering and licensing residents who want to host guests in their homes to ease the accommodation crisis. "Only those fulfilling the set standards will be accorded a licence to receive and accommodate guests," said Mr John Maina, the county executive secretary for land and infrastructure.

Kenyans on verge of winning Sh5m for airtime service

BY ELVIS ONDIEKI
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A team of five Kenyan innovators could be Sh5 million richer this June for creating a system that allows sharing airtime across mobile networks.

It was announced last Tuesday that the youths behind the Chura service that offers a range of services for mobile phone users had made it to the finals of the Africa Prize for Engineering Innovation.

The one-time campus friends, who were featured in *Lifestyle* in October, 2014, are in the race against innovators from Tanzania, South Africa and Zambia.

Their innovation offers four core services: switching airtime, swapping airtime for cash, offering bulk airtime and buying airtime using mobile money transfer services.

They were motivated to create Chura (Kiswahili for "frog") after each of them separately encountered challenges concerning airtime.

They gave their service a frog connotation because it allows a user to "leap" from one mobile service provider to another.

The idea won them Demo Africa award at a gala event held in Lagos last October.

It also earned them a chance to compete with 11 other entrants who had been mentored for six months by UK-based Royal Academy of Engineering.

They have now beaten seven competitors and are waiting for June 1 when the judges will decide who bags the prize. The UK institution will provide the money to be awarded to the winning entry. Other sponsors are the Shell Centenary Scholarship Fund, the Consolidated Contractors Company, ConocoPhillips and the Mo Ibrahim Foundation.

By being shortlisted, they have already bagged Sh1.4 million and are now targeting the Sh3.6 million to be awarded to the overall winner. "The four finalists showing the greatest promise have now been chosen, and are in with a chance to become the overall winner. Each will receive at least £10,000 with the grand prize of £25,000 to be awarded at a ceremony in Cape Town on June 1," says a press statement by the Royal Academy.

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ALL-ROUNDED | The mother of two is married to Prof Kagwanja and has many credentials

The many hats of Monica Juma, new 'iron lady' pushing Uhuru's agenda

In the two years that Jubilee has been in power, she has held three senior positions, was an envoy to Ethiopia and Djibouti, and possesses many academic honours

BY WALTER MENYA
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Not many Kenyans may pick her out from a crowd. But beneath Dr Monica Kathina Juma's down-to-earth demeanour is a woman with lofty credentials which have seen her rise to the top tier of research as well as in government bureaucracy.

In the two years that the Jubilee administration has been in power, Dr Juma has held three senior positions.

Her meteoric rise started first as the Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Defence before she swapped places with suspended PS Mutea Iringo at the Ministry of Interior.

Then last week, President Uhuru Kenyatta nominated her the Secretary to the Cabinet in charge of the Cabinet office after the dismissal of Mr Francis Kimemia, who had held that position since the Jubilee coalition came to power.

Once Parliament approves her nomination, Dr Juma — described by many of her close associates as “an institutional building person keen on creating systems” — will take over the arduous task of driving the government's agenda as a whole. She could not give a comment to *Sunday Nation*, asking that we wait until Parliament approves her nomination.

But the “intellectual bureaucrat” is not new to government. Before President Kenyatta appointed her the Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Defence in 2013, Dr Juma was Kenya's ambassador to Ethiopia and also oversaw Kenya's interests in Djibouti.

She was also the Permanent Representative to the African Union, Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA).

As the country's Permanent Representative to the AU, the pragmatic diplomat was at the forefront of the shuttle diplomacy to save the initial Ocampo Six from the crimes against humanity charges that they faced at the International Criminal Court (ICC).

While former Vice-President Kalonzo Musyoka was seen as the face of the shuttle diplomacy, behind the scenes Dr Juma was the real force lobbying other African governments to have the Kenyan ICC cases referred to the country's courts or deferred.

Former ICC prosecutor Louis Moreno Ocampo's initial list had six prominent Kenyans accused of being the perpetrators of the 2007/08 post-election violence.

They were (cur-

1991

Year when Dr Juma completed her master's degree, after which she has been engaged in a number of key areas

rent President and Deputy President) Kenyatta and William Ruto, respectively, former Head of Public Service Francis Muthaura, former Commissioner of Police Hussein Ali, then Industrialisation minister Henry Kosgey and radio journalist Joshua Sang.

Four individuals have had their cases terminated, but Mr Ruto and Mr Sang are still fighting the charges in The Hague.

However, Dr Juma's résumé is not just full of her tough bureaucratic credentials in government. She holds a Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of Oxford and a Certificate in Refugees Studies from the same university, among other academic testimonials.

She is also a senior research fellow at the Department of Political Science, University of Pretoria (South Africa); an Associate with the African Programme of the United Nations-affiliated University for Peace, (Costa Rica); and an adjunct faculty member at the African Centre for Strategic Studies of the National Defence University, Washington DC, (USA).

The mother of two who is married to Prof Peter Kagwanja has many publications to her name

— among them a presentation at the African Leadership Centre titled *Structural Dilemmas in the Nexus Between Security and Justice*.

As a researcher, she has served as an expert with many governments and inter-governmental organisations, including the UN Secretary General's High Level Panel on resourcing for the Security Council's-mandated AU peace keeping operations (2008).

Senior positions

Previously, she was also the executive director of the Africa Institute of South Africa (AISA), Pretoria; executive director of the Africa Policy Institute (API); senior policy analyst at the SferAfrica, Pretoria; a research associate at the International Peace Institute, New York; and a lecturer in politics, as well as research director, at the Centre for Refugee Studies, Moi University, Kenya; before joining the government as a management analyst at the Office of the President.

She is also a founding member

of the Africa Policy Institute (API).

Her first job in government was in the Office of the President where she worked as a management analyst before she started her master's degree. She completed the MA in 1991.

But that brief period in government was the launch-pad for Dr Juma who has in many ways become the key cog of President Kenyatta's government.

Since then, she has been engaged in a number of places, during which she has developed great interest in areas of forced migration.

She was involved in the establishment of the Centre for Refugee Studies at Moi University following an influx of Somali refugees.

Dr Juma would replicate that at Makerere and Dar es Salaam universities where she also helped establish similar centres.

She was also involved in areas of women empowerment — and was part of the team that assessed the Beijing +10 under UNDP programmes.

After her doctorate, she worked in New York with the International Peace Academy as an African fellow in capacity building for crisis and conflict response across some 18 sub-Saharan African countries.

She would later move on to South Africa during the big debate of the transformation of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) to the present day African Union (AU).

A close associate of Dr Juma said that the tough bureaucrat was also part of the team that looked at the initial proposals for establishment of Nepad programmes, particularly the peace and security programme which was being chaired by then South African President Thabo Mbeki.

Along with that, she took part in the establishment of general programmes on governance, including the AU Declaration on Good Governance that has become a benchmark for governance and electoral politics on the continent.

By the nature of her work and interests, she was involved in the establishment of the AU Peace and Security Council, including its formative document and modalities of work.

Her contribution to the development of Africa came at IPA as the executive director, creating the African Capacity Building Foundation now operating out of Dakar, Senegal.

Perhaps the darkest moments in her stint as a Interior Principal Secretary was the recent terrorist attack where 148 people were killed at Garissa University College by Al-Shabaab terror group.

The Westgate Mall terror attack also occurred when she was the Defence principal secretary. An estimated 67 people died.

Kambi faces a bankruptcy suit over Sh300m debt

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Suspended Labour Cabinet Secretary Kazungu Kambi is embroiled in a legal tussle with a bank that is claiming more than Sh304 million from him.

Development Bank of Kenya has threatened to institute bankruptcy proceedings against him if he fails to pay Sh304,906,835.40 together with interests that accrued at a rate of 17 per cent per annum since February 28, 2010.

This is in relation to a ruling delivered on June 19, 2013, by Justice Jonathan Havelock in an application where the bank sought and was granted a summary judgment against Riva Oils Company's Ezekiel Karisa and David Komen.

Mr Kambi has said that according to the ruling, the judgment was entered against Mr Karisa and Mr Komen respectively, jointly and severally in the sum of Sh304,906,835.40 together with interests at 17 per cent per annum from February 28, 2010 until payment in full.

“The said judgment is of no legal effect whatsoever upon me being the third defendant in that said suit,” Mr Kambi said in his court papers.

He said that his lawyers wrote a

“

The said judgement is of no legal effect on me whatsoever upon me being the third defendant...”

CS Kazungu Kambi

letter to the bank dated March 17, 2015, setting out the correct position in the matter so as to avoid confusion but, the bank proceeded to file a bankruptcy notice and served the same upon his secretary.

The bank had in a letter directed to the Cabinet Secretary stated: “Take notice that should you fail to pay the said sum of Sh304,906,835.40 together with interests as stated thereof, within the next 14 days, we shall proceed to institute bankruptcy proceedings against yourself without further notice of reference and at your own detriment as to costs and other attendant consequences thereto”.

Mr Kambi has, however, said that the bankruptcy notice is gravely misplaced, grossly misconceived and an abuse of the court process and should therefore be struck out.

Development Bank of Kenya moved to court after Riva Oils directors declined to settle the outstanding loan secured in 2007, by a charge over a parcel of land in Kilifi and personal guarantees by Mr Kambi, Mr Karisa and Mr Komen.

Before moving to court, the bank said it had notified the company's directors of the default in servicing the loan and written a demand letter but no payment was made. Riva Oils was suddenly closed down, leaving the bank without any option but to demand the outstanding amount from the guarantors.



Talk of the TOWN

WHEN PASSION IS EXPENSIVE

A senior government official is in distress after losing Sh3.1 million in cash to a prostitute in Kisumu following a night of fun.

The man, who came to the Nation offices seeking help, had spent the night at a popular Kisumu night club until 5 a.m. when he sought the company of the woman as he retired to his hotel room.

The official claims the prostitute spiked his drink before escaping with the money which he had kept in a suitcase. The distraught man, who did not say why he was walking around with millions, is now appealing to the public to assist him arrest the culprit by reporting a woman spotted with a huge amount of cash.

Commercial sex workers in the lakeside town confessed that the Devolution Conference was a windfall for them and asked Governor Jack Runguma to host more such meetings.

COSTLY SLIP OF THE TONGUE

Kisumu county Woman Representative Rose Nyamunga could soon be looking for Cord leader Raila Odinga to offer an apology after she referred to him as "retired" prime minister instead of "former" during the Devolution Conference.

Talk is rife on the streets of Kisumu that the reference has not gone down well with Baba's supporters.

She made the statement while addressing delegates on the first day of the second devolution conference. Mrs Nyamunga, however, profusely apologised to Mr Odinga to the amusement of President Uhuru Kenyatta during the event.

Mrs Nyamunga is not alone. Embattled Nairobi Governor Evans Kidero could also be in trouble for baptising Mr Odinga as "Right Reverend".

BODA BODA BRAKES

A boda boda rider almost single-handedly stopped President Uhuru Kenyatta's motorcade last Tuesday and forced him to address residents in Kisumu.

The man, known by his colleagues as "ODM", stood at a zebra crossing as the motorcade approached, shouting that the President should address them.

The security team roughed him up but President Kenyatta intervened and addressed the crowd that had gathered.

DANCING TO THE BEAT

Should Homa Bay Governor Cyprian Awiti think of having a "side hustle", he should be advised to consider a dancing career. Those who were at a party organised for participants at the Devolution Conference were in agreement that the man enjoys shaking a leg. He spent three hours on the floor dancing to tunes like *Kondele*, *Mapenzi ya shilingi*, *Onagi* among other hits by ohangla maestro Tonny Nyadundo — much to the delight of the audience.

BIG MAN ON THE RUN

A senior official of the Nairobi County Government has been moving houses so frequently for the last three months that even his relatives do not know his new address. Reason? The man is under investigation over various corruption allegations and Ethics and Anti-Corruption officials have been harassing him day and night. A source in the know says some people believed to be rogue investigators have been pushing the City Hall man for a bribe in order to go slow on the probe.

JUDGING A DRINKING BUDDY

An individual appointed to a tribunal is said to be the "drinking buddy" of one of people the team will be investigating. Their mutual friends are now waiting to see how the two influential people, who are known to quaff the finest drinks together, will relate.

Do you have an issue you would like highlighted? Send us an email on sundaynation@ke.nationmedia.com

COURTS | Sarova group says minister participated in land groundbreaking

Firm wants Ngilu to testify in case over prime city plot

Three companies claim ownership of land worth over Sh200 million

BY MAZERA NDURYA

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Suspended Land Secretary Charity Ngilu could be summoned to court to lift the lid on the intrigues surrounding a prime piece of land in Nairobi that has sucked three companies into an ownership struggle.

Samvo Limited, a company associated with Sarova Group of Hotels which claims legitimate ownership of the 2.23 acre plot in Kilimani, wants Ms Ngilu to be compelled to testify in the case that has been in court for over eight years.

Land mystery

Samvo, through lawyer Stephen Mwenesi, argues that recommendations by Lady Justice Lucy Gacheru in her ruling of June 14, 2013, gave the company the leeway to summon anyone who could help unravel the mystery surrounding the land.

"I find that the ends of justice would best be served if all parties herein are given an opportunity to have their day in court and ventilate their issues. It will not be in the interest of justice to condemn any party unheard as they have a duty to assist the court to achieve the



Land Cabinet Secretary Charity Ngilu and Catham Properties officials at the groundbreaking ceremony. She was caught up in the controversy last year after helping Chinese investors.

overriding justice," the judge had ruled.

Mrs Ngilu was caught up in the controversy last year after she moved to help Chinese investors launch a mega project for the construction of a 47-storey apartment complex a day after a court issued orders directing that no activity be allowed on the land pending determination of the suit.

The plaintiff claims to have inherited the land through family over generations. An Environmental and Land Division court was moved under a certificate of urgency to stop the "official grabbing" of the multi-million-shilling property on Ndemi Road.

"It is only fair that she also comes to court to give her side of the story, given that when she presided over the groundbreaking for the project on the disputed land, there was still a court order issued in 2007 prohibiting any activity on the property," said Mr Mwenesi.

Samvo is asking the High Court to expel Chinese investors in the name of Catham and Delta Haulage from the property valued at more than Sh200 million, alleging it was irregularly allocated to the two who are also claiming ownership.

Sarova Group, through the family company Samvo Limited, told the court its property

was wantonly destroyed by the purported new owners in a bid to destroy evidence of ownership.

Documents presented before the court showed that the property was owned by the mother, Swarana Devi Vohra, who passed it on to the family company. The directors of Samvo Limited are listed as Jagjit Singh Ahluwalia, Jaldip Singh Vohra, Ravinder Singh Vohra and Mohinder Singh Vohra.

Delta Haulage, which is also claiming ownership, has opposed the enjoinderment of two businessmen who allegedly sold the property to Catham, last year.

Another feather in the cap of Moipei quartet



BY ELVIS ONDIEKI

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Four Kenyan sisters are expected to make history tonight for being the first non-Americans to sing the American anthem before a basketball match in Texas.

The Moipei Quartet is lined up to sing the anthem before San Antonio Spurs face Los Angeles Clippers in a basketball match in the race for the title of America's western conference champions.

The match will start at 11.30pm Kenyan time.

The quartet consists of triplets, pictured, Mary, Magdalene and Marta and their younger sister Sera-

phine. Yesterday, they wrote on their Facebook page that being slotted to sing will be a dream-come-true.

"On Sunday, one of our biggest dreams will come true. We will be singing the American anthem for the San Antonio Spurs vs LA Clippers 4th playoff game," they wrote. They added: "Truly, 'No matter where you come from, your dreams are valid.' To God be the glory."

Their self-written profile says that in June 2006 they were appointed the first-ever Unicef child ambassadors in Kenya. It adds that in 2007, they received the Head of State Commendation Award by President Mwai Kibaki.

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TRAINING PRACTICAL LEADERS FOR AFRICA

SUNDAY NATION

Expedite EACC tribunal work to stay on course

The warning by the Commission for the Implementation of the Constitution (CIC) that the anti-corruption body as currently constituted cannot carry out certain functions is a sure sign that previous assurances from the President and his legal advisers may have been built on a weak foundation.

President Uhuru Kenyatta on Friday suspended the Ethics and Anti-Corruption (EACC) Chairman Mumo Matemu and vice-chairperson Irene Keino and formed a tribunal to investigate them after a petition was presented to the National Assembly for their removal. This came weeks after another commissioner, Jane Onsongo, resigned. The credibility of EACC has also been damaged in the last few weeks following disagreements between the commission and the secretariat.

While there is no doubt that the technical functions of EACC will continue, legal experts, including CIC, have noted that the forwarding of investigation files to the Director of Public Prosecutions will particularly be affected. The lack of commissioners could also be used to lodge legal challenges in court against the work of the anti-corruption commission.

This comes at a time when the Jubilee administration is seen to have made one of the boldest moves in the fight against corruption. President Kenyatta had, as part of his State of the Nation address to Parliament last month, provided a confidential dossier of government officers under investigation by the EACC to Parliament. The list includes five Cabinet Secretaries and other influential individuals, who have since been suspended.

Views have varied on the recent developments at EACC with some suggestions that the commissioners have not been up to the task. But others have pointed out that powerful individuals touched by recent robust action against corruption may have used their connections in the Executive and Parliament to frustrate investigations.

These are matters that the tribunal, which is yet to be formed, will have to consider when it begins its work.

Our concern is that the war on corruption, which has been pointed to as one of the most important steps to secure Kenya's well-being, may be significantly affected. Indeed, those who have made corruption their way of life may take advantage of the apparent confusion to continue with their evil deeds.

It is, therefore, important that the tribunal appointed by the president to determine the fate of the EACC commission should start and complete its work as soon as possible. It is a delicate task, but it has to be done with utmost care and speed.

MPs absence worrying

The just-ended Devolution Conference in Kisumu was largely a success story that took stock of the new system of governance for the last two years.

However, one disturbing aspect was the absence of key leaders expected to ensure that devolution takes off in earnest for the benefit of wananchi.

At the conference, the programme showed that quite a number of Members of Parliament had been invited to participate.

Most of them did not show up. While some said they did not receive official invitations, political reasons seemed to have informed the no-show decision for others.

It is worrying that leaders ostensibly serving the same voters and the same public would refuse to participate in such an important joint meeting — bringing together county and national government leaders — crucial to smoothen the bumps in the system that have affected some aspects of devolution.

All over the country, there are many counties where elected leaders do not see eye to eye and have made endless political posturing their staple.

It means that otherwise useful energy is needlessly wasted when leaders only want to stage supremacy battles. It is important for MPs to work together with governors, senators and members of the county assembly. We hope lessons from the devolution conference will provide an opportunity for leaders to join hands.

QUOTED

“A mule that grazes with horses thinks it is also a horse.”

– Somali proverb



THIS AND THAT | Murithi Mutiga

War criminals in London and Paris to blame for the mess in war-torn Libya



Impose a leader: Leaders in London and Paris, who loathed Gaddafi, spotted a chance to export ‘democracy’ and impose a leader on Libya who would dance to their tunes

One of the best editors I have worked with offered me countless pieces of advice including an order never to start a story with a quotation unless the words were truly remarkable.

So the only circumstance in which he would allow a quote at the start of an article was if, say, the Pope stepped out at the balcony at the Vatican and declared: “I am resigning my papacy to embark on a career as a professional wrestler.”

A sticker I saw online the other day, though, could potentially fall in the category of quotes good enough to start a story about Western intervention: It had a picture of an American mouthing the words: “Be friendly to us, or we will bring democracy to your country.”

The reference is to the countless examples of nations around the world which have been brought to their knees by foreign intervention in the name of exporting democracy, with Iraq the poster boy of this trend.

Libya is the latest example. European leaders have been meeting over the last week to address the crisis of migrants crossing the sea into Europe through ungoverned Libya but completely unspoken among them was the fact that they are the authors of the mess in that country, which is soon to become the world’s newest failed state following the ouster and brutal murder of Muammar Gaddafi.

This was a disaster foretold. There was no revolution in Libya. Unlike Egypt and Tunisia, which are reasonably homogeneous, Libya is an ethnically and regionally divided place.

It is a recent construct, patched together from three separate kingdoms, Tripolitania, Cyrenaica and Fezzan, distinct territories

whose history goes back thousands of years.

When the uprisings broke out in the Arab world, the people of Benghazi, who had never forgiven Gaddafi (a Tripolitanian) for ousting King Idris, a native of Cyrenaica in 1969, decided to take the opportunity to rise up against his government.

This was merely a regional contest for power, not a revolution. But the leaders in London and Paris, who loathed Gaddafi above all for his independent-mindedness, spotted a chance to export “democracy” and impose a leader on Libya who would dance to their tunes. To his immense credit, Barack Obama was extremely reluctant to get involved, a stance for which he was severely criticised and which now seems exceedingly wise.

A French jet bombed Gaddafi’s convoy and mobs savagely finished the job by lynching him to the general approval of the power wielders in Western capitals.

What do we have today? A splendid mess. Most of Libya is now a battlefield.

A nation where once existed the best social welfare system in Africa is now run by a patchwork of militias with the civilian population hemmed in between them.

Shouldn’t the Rome Statute be revised to classify leaders such as

“A nation where once existed the best social welfare system in Africa is now run by a patchwork of militias”

Sarkozy, Cameron and Bush who launch wars on false pretences and upend the lives of millions of innocents, consigning states to civil war for years on end, as war criminals?

At the very least, the warmonger class in the West should spare the world the empty rhetoric and admit that they never set out in their interventions to spread “democracy”. Only, in the words of the Tufts Professor Hugh Roberts, to punish “hostile”, “defiant”, “insufficiently compliant”, or “rogue regimes” to advance their own interests.

Governor Evans Kidero deserves to be commended for his attempts to ease the traffic crisis in the capital.

The removal of the Westlands roundabout, for example, has ended a long-running traffic choke point.

Mombasa Road is a work in progress but the diversion of the trucks into the southern bypass will surely help.

The problem with Kenyans is that we are world class complainers. We complain when the authorities don’t act and fall over ourselves criticising them when they do something.

As one who has assailed the Governor for his inertia in the past, I now doff the cap to him for at least trying something.

Interventions like a mass transit public transport system will take years to implement.

If a few tweaks can at least help the traffic move along a little faster, they are certainly worth doing.

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WHAT THEY SAID | OPINION MAKERS



“Devolution has gained a lot of ground and is now an indispensable part of our social and political infrastructure ... Where devolution is concerned, we have often heard a negative story, a story of inter-governmental turmoil and suspicion. But those of us who walk this journey of devolution know that this is not the full story – this is not even the true story”
– **Devolution and Planning Cabinet Secretary Anne Waiguru**



“No one can say South Africans attack foreigners only. We have a history that these things happen. There is violence here that nobody has forgotten. Political violence here you couldn't say was xenophobic, xenophobia. At some point I was giving an example, I was explaining to someone who was doing research that it was not accurate to say the majority of South Africans are xenophobic. We are not”
– **South African President Jacob Zuma**



“[Ferdinand] Waititu is interested in the gubernatorial seat, and he is just using Kabete to gain political relevance. I'm sure he will be less bothered about the needs of the people of Kabete. He has been sending people to me but I have refused. We will square it out at the ballot box. We want a real representative from Kabete. We can't allow an outsider to represent our people” – **Kabete parliamentary candidate John Wamagata**



“When I rose to protest and point out this oversight [new PAC list not following one third gender rule], he [National Assembly Speaker Justin Muturi] did not give me an opportunity to speak until the matter had already been voted on, by which time it was too late. Women need to vote [for] women leaders because we cannot trust our legislators to have the goodwill to implement affirmative action Bills”
– **Nyeri Town MP Esther Murugi**

SUNDAY VIEW | Gitau Warigi

There's no reason whatsoever for Europe-bound African migrants to die like this



Where is dignity?
Life, for sure, can be hard in Africa. But life under welfare in Europe does not improve anybody's dignity

I would dearly love to think there are angels to be found in the tragic saga of European-bound African migrants who are drowning in droves in the Mediterranean Sea. But they are certainly not among the human traffickers responsible for the doomed voyages.

But are the migrants themselves any more respectful of their own lives when they undertake these suicidal journeys? Are the conditions in their broken home countries they cite really worth the terrible risk?

Let's be honest with ourselves: Places like Senegal or Niger or Mali where some of these migrants are fleeing from are not governed by Lucifer.

Horrific accident

Yet they are being drawn from a far wider area. The horrific incident last Sunday when over 700 migrants drowned after their boat capsized en route to Italy stunned the entire world.

Trapped inside were people from Eritrea, Somalia, Tunisia, Syria and even one or two souls from Bangladesh. These desperate people converge in Libya, from where the traffickers take over.

Why Libya? It is lawless, without a viable government, and thus a convenient haven for the traffickers. Perhaps the European powers now shedding copious tears over the fate of the migrants should ponder who was responsible for the anarchic state Libya is in today.

From Libya, the boats head mainly to Italy. But this is only a way-station. The preferred destinations are Germany and especially the Scandinavian countries, where they seek asylum.

These are much richer countries than Italy, with low unemployment and, most importantly, provide generous welfare benefits to those to whom they grant asylum. Also, the countries the migrants target are usually those where they have relatives already settled.

Currently the weather conditions and wind levels in the Mediterranean are favourable, which means the voyages will only increase. Stung by the Sunday tragedy, EU states have promised to do something.

One option is to increase search-and-rescue missions at sea. As a humanitarian gesture, this is a very good thing.

However, some EU states are reluctant because this will only swell the flood of migrants when they know they now stand a better chance of being rescued when things go wrong at sea.

The EU is too guilt-racked at the moment to say so bluntly. In keeping with international best practice, the rescuers cannot send the migrants back to African shores against their will, and the migrants know it. Neither can the EU navies simply blow off the traffickers in international waters. A proposal to hunt for the traffickers in Libya itself, apprehend them, and put

their boats out of operation is being considered, but is by no means easy to implement.

The stories of Africans spending their life savings on a journey into some illusory future in Europe is a sad one.

Some commentators are calling it the new slave trade. Yet nobody has forced these migrants to abandon their lives and undertake voyages where the chances of getting out alive are barely fifty-fifty.

The boats themselves have no passenger manifests. People are loaded according to how much they pay. Those on the upper decks pay a premium. The majority are shunted below into the overcrowded holds that are potential tombs.

Human cargo

The dehumanising conditions don't end there. The traffickers whip their human cargo mercilessly for any infractions at sea. The migrants themselves fight each other frequently.

There was a shocking incident two weeks ago where Christian migrants from West Africa were thrown overboard by Muslim colleagues sharing the same ship over some obscure quarrel.

Surely as Africans we owe each other better. If we have to flee our countries for whatever reason, let it not be in this manner. Let us not use sly arguments about persecution at home when, deep down, the motivation is to escape poverty.

Life can definitely be hard in Africa. But life on welfare in Europe does not improve anybody's dignity.

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FIFTH COLUMNIST | Philip Ochieng

In Kenya's pathetic case, who can be trusted as auditor?



In typical Western liberal simple-mindedness, Agatha Christie has – in her whodunit fiction – a character who could tell a “commie” just by the kind shoes one was wearing. A “commie” was one of those dreaded agents of Joseph Stalin's self-styled “communist” regime.

Similarly, in a pseudo-science called “phrenology”, Cesare Lombroso, a learned Italian Jew, could determine a person's character just by looking at the

person's shape of jaw or colour of skin. In this way, the phrenologists were able to declare that all black people were “criminal by nature”.

The intellectual absurdity of it lay in that such Caucasian Europeans were speaking up to five centuries after their own William Shakespeare – the much better educated Hermetic guru of yore – had ordained (in a tragic play called *Macbeth*) that “There is no art to find the mind's construction in the face.”

Had there been such an art, King Duncan would have known much better – and much earlier – than to put such vital trust in Macbeth, one of his military generals, a man who – egged on by his own wife – developed a “vaulting ambition” to overthrow and kill the Scottish monarch.

That is why Kenya's situation is so reminiscent of Joseph Heller's *Catch-22*. What we urgently need at the head of our anti-corruption campaign are superlatively clean individuals thoroughly committed to Hercules' task of removing the veritable Kilimanjaro of filth that we have accumulated in our own King Augeus' stable (the infamous “Augean stable”).

But the question is ineluctable: How can we ever latch onto a proper person for the helm of that agency? Which one of us – as individuals and institutions – is in a position to make such an appointment without being influenced by such *corrupting* considerations as the appointee's tribe, race or links to wealth and power?

All accused of being on the take

For such considerations are what make our alleged war on rapacity and graft such a study in farcical drama. No, I know nothing against Mr Mumo Matemu and Ms Irene Keino except that – like all their predecessors (who were then ignominiously driven out of office) – they have been accused of being “on the take”.

“On the take” is the Kenyan cynic's term for the alacrity with which centrally placed officials demand and receive a *quid pro quo* – “something for something” (in millions of *quid*) – before they will do anything for you. In Kenya, bribery (the more prosaic name for it) is the holy path to heaven that God has laid down.

We know it from the fact that many of God's own sacerdotal spokesmen and women are among Kenya's most dedicated donors and takers. There is thus no reason to expect that *hoi polloi* – the admiring ordinary regular goers to church, mosque, pagoda, temple, whatnot – will behave any differently.

Our spectacular national failure to place self-respecting and morally unimpeachable individuals at the vanguard of our national war on public fleecing can only mean that we have failed, equally spectacularly, to agree on an effective yardstick of qualification.

It means that we have not yet found a foolproof method of laying our social hands on the most appropriate anti-corruption generals and lieutenants. In a society which has long ago overtaken Chicago, Lagos, London, Rome and Sodom-and-Gomorra as the paradise of social putrefaction, that is not an easy task. If – as we learned this week – the legislative vies with the executive in the race to grab, the question becomes inevitable: In a country where every social stratum and walk of life has sunk to the very bottom of moral decay, who can be trusted as the auditor? Who will monitor whom?

What is to be done? These questions demand urgent answers. Quite clearly, what we need is an all-inclusive national conference to discuss and agree on how we can together rescue this country from falling into the Sargasso Sea from which no citizen would ever again emerge alive.

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To the editor

The editor welcomes brief letters on topical issues. Send them through e-mail to sundaynation@ke.nationmedia.com. You can also address them to The Editor, *Sunday Nation*, P O Box 49010, Nairobi 00100. Letters may be edited for clarity, space or legal considerations.

Why blame Kaindi for Garissa attack?

It was disheartening to read in last week's *Sunday Nation* that some people are hell-bent on blaming Deputy Inspector-General of Police Grace Kaindi for the Garissa terror attack. Is she the one who dispatched a police aircraft to Mombasa? Where was the country's intelligence? It is wrong for some people to blame Ms Kaindi yet the buck stops with her bosses. We know many senior individuals want to take over her job. People, especially men, do not want to see a woman occupy a powerful position. Ms Kaindi should be allowed to retire peacefully.

Jane Mugo, Nairobi.

Writer's arguments don't hold water

Columnist Gitau Warigi claims radicalisation of youths is happening in mosques and madrasas. I ask him to please stop blanket demonisation of Muslim religious institutions. Despite his attempts to dismiss it, the narrative that radicalisation is being partly fuelled by marginalisation of northern Kenya and the coast remains valid. The majority of al-Shabaab recruits are from the poor, ill-educated classes. Mr Warigi's claim that people of northern Kenya have not been forthcoming with intelligence is false. The father of the Garissa terrorist Abdirahim Abdullahi shared relevant information with the police but nothing was done.

Yusuf Ghazzali, via email.

Presidency should steer clear of goofs

The presidential directive that 10,000 police recruits report for training against an existing court order brought to the fore the question of the type of legal advice President Uhuru Kenyatta's well-paid advisers give him. Was the President well advised on this or did he ignore wise counsel? The rescinding of the directive is a clear indication that the Presidency did not consult with relevant institutions. The Presidency must put its house in order. The President's advisers are paid to offer good counsel to the President and his government in the interest of the nation. It is crystal clear that they need to up their game and save him from such costly goofs.

Vivere Nandiemo, Kegonga.

TALKING POINT

There's need to train public how to respond when disaster strikes

That the country is in panic mode due to frequent terrorist attacks cannot be gainsaid.

This explains why, since the Garissa University College terrorist attack that claimed 148 lives, most university students panic whenever something out of the ordinary occurs.

Students scamper and suffer injuries as they try to flee.

Cases in point are some Kenyatta University students who were injured as they scampered out of a library following what they suspected to be a terrorist attack.

Some had to jump out of windows from upper floors. One student died while 167 were injured as they attempted to run out of a hostel at the University of Nairobi's Kikuyu campus.

Some students, having been awakened by a noise from a faulty power cable, jumped from the building's upper floors.

In the wake of these happenings, it has emerged that our universities are very poor in preparing learners for emergencies.

According to student leaders from Kenyatta University, Maseno University, Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology, Moi University and Garissa University College, university students have been taken through few drills to train them on what to do when faced with danger



FILE | NATION

Security personnel evacuate people during the terrorist attack on Westgate mall in Nairobi on September 21, 2013.

while in a building.

According to Devolution and Planning Cabinet Secretary Anne Waiguru, her ministry will hold consultations with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology on whether youths should acquire paramilitary training before they join public universities.

This will be a move in the right direction if it will be implemented.

This is because respective university students will be trained in self defence.

However, this is not enough. This is because we do not know where terrorists will strike next.

It is instructive that the government starts with churches,

then public transport vehicles and later academic institutions.

May be next time, al-Shabaab will target schools like their counterparts Boko Haram in Nigeria.

It is for this reason that all Kenyans need some education on how to respond to emergencies.

Indeed, seminars should be held in all schools, churches and other public places where people gather to educate all Kenyans on how to respond to tragedies.

Kimani wa Njuguna, Gatundu South.

This country has wept enough over tragedies

We cry together when a tragedy occurs. Political leaders give long speeches on what they will do, the measures that will be put in place, et cetera. We weep more, bury the dead and, after two weeks, it is back to business as usual as if nothing happened to us or to the country. Until another tragedy occurs.

The cycle is then replayed. I will no longer cry. We have wept enough. Some one needs to act, act decisively and in a hurry. As a people, as a country, we have cried enough.

Josh Gatonye, Nairobi.

South Africa ought to stop the 'terrorism'

In an era where the "African renaissance" philosophical disposition is gradually taking root in the continent, our dear brothers in South Africa have taken to obliterating the elementary fabrics of African integration. What is currently going on there is a very clear case of terrorism en-

veloped in the term "xenophobia". There is everything wrong in these attacks, from whichever horizon you want to look at them. Africa is counting on South Africa to show that we owe fidelity to our cultural identity. The country should stop this terrorism.

Calvin Omondi, Homa Bay.

The Cutting Edge

BY THE WATCHMAN

AU'S HEAD IN THE SAND: The gruesome images of the horrendous xenophobic attacks in South Africa, once touted as the all-inclusive Rainbow Nation, are "extremely unfortunate", says Fredrick Mukabi. The situation, he adds, is made worse by the fact that the South Africans are killing fellow Africans. But even more disturbing to him "is the ominous silence of the African Union, a body meant to unite the continent. Can someone, please, help me understand the relevance of the AU today?" His contact is fredrick.mukabi@ksg.ac.ke.

WARPED PRIORITIES: The silence of the AU and the various leaders following the drowning of hundreds of migrants in the Mediterranean Sea has been rather deafening, says Allan Agade Indiazzi, adding that the "illegals are mainly from Ethiopia, Somalia, Eritrea and West Africa". He poses: "Could they be fleeing from dictatorships? The tragedy of being a poor African is that you suffer and your government does nothing. But if a leader had been indicted by the ICC over crimes against humanity, the AU would have held an emergency session."

CHOKING IN FILTH: The posh suburbs of Lavington and Kileleshwa in Nairobi and their environs risk becoming one huge slum unless the city county government takes some urgent steps, warns Diana D'Souza. The residents, she says, would, for instance, like to know when the officials plan to implement a "Jica-funded solid waste management system for Zone 7". Diana is also calling for the education of the residents to understand their situation and appreciate their civic obligations. Her contact is diana@encompas.co.ke.

CORPORATE MESS: Safaricom, being the biggest corporate brand in the country, should ensure that the organisations it contracts to do some work for it do not mess up its image, says Moses Nderitu. He singles out the contractors who have been digging trenches all over Nairobi to lay cables and leave them open, with the soil lying there for days. "This is not only an eyesore, especially in this rainy season, but also an inconvenience to the pedestrians. Please, protect your brand." His contact is mkuikiaki@yahoo.com.

ALCOHOL ADVERTISING: Nairobi resident Festus Mbuimwe has been keenly looking around and needs an assurance from the city county government that the rule against the outdoor advertising of alcohol within a radius of three kilometres from schools is still in force. If it is, he says, then it is not being enforced, as right opposite the All Saints' Cathedral, on Kenyatta Avenue, there is an alcohol-branded bus stop and yet within the church compound, there is a nursery school. His contact is fmbuimwe@gmail.com.

WASTEFUL LIARS: Nothing irritates Fanuel Masika more than watching people lying all the time without batting an eyelid while speaking on the phone, he says, fully agreeing with Wollen Morara's remark that the bad and wasteful habit is quite rampant. According to Fanuel, the truth is sacred and people should always strive to uphold it at all times, "instead of just wasting money on phone airtime telling lies in these difficult economic times". His contact is arasatiler@gmail.com.

VETTING SHAM: The spectacle of senior police officers turning their public vetting into a forum to flaunt their ill-gotten wealth is a reflection of all that has gone wrong with the society, says Taabu Tele. None of the officers, he adds, presented as proof of their ability any serious crime-busting achievement. He concludes: "We must all hang our heads in shame for allowing these people to insult our national conscience." His contact is taabull@outlook.com.

Have a respectable day, won't you!

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Thirty Years Ago



April 26, 1985

A senior engineering lecturer at the University of Nairobi has been charged with sedition in a Nairobi court.

Musa Otieno Adongo (left) appeared before Chief Magistrate HH Buch but was not required to plead until the Attorney-General's office gives

consent for his prosecution.

The prosecution alleged that Mr Adongo uttered words to the effect that there was no government in Kenya - intended to cause disaffection with the government.

The offence is alleged to have been committed April 24 at Norfolk Hotel along Harry Thuku Road in Nairobi.

Compiled by Anniel Njoka

Mr Adongo faced an alternative charge of behaving at the same place in a manner likely to cause a breach of peace by saying there was no government in Kenya.

He faced a second count of mutilating a Kenyan currency note contrary. He allegedly tore four Sh100 notes to pieces.

SUNDAY REVIEW

SUNDAY NATION

POLITICS, OPINION, ANALYSES, BUSINESS



OKOA BILL: THE GOOD AND THE BAD - A CRITIQUE

Although proposals by Cord are good, the same are laced with selfish intentions, P. 19-20

GRAFT FIGHT | Will investigations into state officers suspended by President stand legal test?

Legality of anti-graft agency puts probe cases in jeopardy

Lawyers say presidency and secretariat too ambitious to expect investigations to proceed as though the commission were fully constituted

BY WALTER MENYA
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The constitutional implementation watchdog yesterday warned the secretariat of the anti-corruption body against assuming roles previously handled by its commission.

The Commission for the Implementation of the Constitution (CIC) said yesterday that the current composition of the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) does not allow it to function fully.

In a letter addressed to Attorney-General Githu Muigai and copied to Mr Halakhe Waqo, the EACC chief executive officer, Mr Charles Nyachae, the CIC chairman, said the remaining team can continue with the technical work of the commission but nothing else.

"It is important that no actions are taken by the secretariat of the commission purporting to act as the commission as the same will be subject to judicial challenge and compromise the ongoing fight against graft," said Mr Nyachae in the letter.

President Uhuru Kenyatta on Friday suspended chairman Mumo Matemu and vice-chairperson Irene Keino following a petition presented to the National



Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission Chief Executive Officer Halakhe Waqo addresses journalists at Integrity Centre, Nairobi, on Friday.

secretariat, no formal decision of the commission, including inter alia the transmission of recommendations of the commission to the Director of Public Prosecutions . . . can be legally effected by the commission in the absence of the commissioners," he said.

Mr Nyachae said the tribunal appointed by President Uhuru Kenyatta to probe Mr Matemu and Ms Keino should work with speed to enable the EACC

retary Halakhe Waqo on Friday asserting that the commission's functions would not be disrupted by the absence of all three commissioners after one resigned and two were suspended.

"The commission has perpetual succession irrespective of the holders of the office. That is why people come and go. I wish to reiterate that there are 392 members of staff. I want to emphasise that technical operations of the commission will not be affected by the

According to Ms Atsango Chesoni, who served as the vice-chairperson of the Committee of Experts that came up with the 2010 constitution, EACC commissioners are "executive commissioners and the secretariat officials are their employees".

"The secretariat can carry on with the administrative work, but the question that arises is who the decision-makers are. The secretary of the commission, as

"This process in no way hinders the work of the organisation which remains constitutionally established and operational," President Uhuru Kenyatta

Assembly. A four-member tribunal to investigate their conduct chaired by Justice (rtd) Jonathan Bowen Havelock has also been formed. Other members of the tribunal are former commissioner with the Truth Justice and Reconciliation Commission Margaret Shava, Mr Issa Mansur Muathe and Ms Juster Nkoro.

In its letter, CIC added that both in terms of Article 250(1) of the Constitution and Section of the EACC Act, the commission comprises the commissioners, who are supported by a secretariat headed by the secretary.

"In the circumstances, we believe that whereas the technical work of the commission can continue to be carried out by the

to function.

"It is critical that the tribunal commences and concludes its work as soon as possible so that the commission is properly constituted to enable it carry out its critical mandate," he said.

The ongoing investigations into corruption could run into severe legal turbulence over the composition of EACC.

This is despite the EACC sec-

on-going constitutional process," Mr Waqo said on Friday.

Yesterday, Justice (rtd) Havelock said he could not comment about the operations of the tribunal "at this stage".

The suspension of the two commissioners follows the abrupt resignation of their colleague, Prof Jane Onsongo, on March 31 after she was reportedly coerced by senior officials close to the presidency and an MP from the Rift Valley region.

Legal experts told the *Sunday Nation* that while the secretariat, which is headed by Mr Waqo, can carry on with its administrative and technical functions, it will be limited as to the extent it can go.

an employee of the commission, cannot purport to act on behalf of the commissioners. The current situation lends itself to legal challenges by people being investigated," she said.

Clause 4 of the EACC Act on the composition and appointment of commissioners expressly provides that, "The commission shall consist of a chairperson and two other members appointed in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and this Act."

Paragraph 5 of the Second Schedule of the Act provides that for the commission to conduct business, the quorum shall be two-thirds of all the three mem-

BITS & PIECES | Gakiha Weru

JUST WHAT DOCTOR ORDERED

Last week I met a friend who was decidedly excited. For close to a year, he has been transporting his father from Nyeri to Kenyatta Hospital for dialysis every week. Besides the cost of treatment, transporting a critically ill patient to the city is always a nightmare. My friend's joy now is that the Nyeri county government has opened a renal unit at the Nyeri Provincial Hospital, easing the suffering of hundreds of kidney patients in the region. It seems, where people are thinking properly, this devolution thing might be just what the doctor ordered after all.

YOU MIGHT BUY MY BOOTS

I visited Saina Falls sequestered away in the depth of the Aberdares in Nyeri county last week. It is a treasure trove of rare tree species, wild plantains, pristine rock formations and the perfect picnic site. To get there, you need hiking boots. So I went shopping in the backstreets of Nairobi and found this guy selling suitable boots but the cost was a shocker. Being the smart businessman, he offered to hire out the boots to me for a fee for a number of days. I'm sure he will clean them and sell them as new when I return them. Good luck buying hiking boots.

OF HOTEL SECURITY CHECKS

It is easy to understand all these security measures around big hotels, but sometimes the security people piss me off. There is a lady who appears to believe that if you walk in as opposed to driving in, you have no business visiting this city hotel. So she asks me a curt 'yes'? The other day I was ready for her. "How about parmesan cheese, fresh basil, sourdough baguette, a wedge of runny camembert, pistachio nuts, marshmallows, pasta primavera and, while you are at it, throw in butter slathered bread." Of course I had no idea what I was talking about, but she got the hint.

LICENSING RAT KEEPERS

We are in this place that is not so bad but also not so good either - it can do with some bit of renovations here and there. Occasionally, a rat darts along the walls and disappears somewhere in the darkness. I think KWS can make extra income selling licences to people keen on keeping wild creatures in their premises.

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60

The days President Uhuru Kenyatta had set as deadline to investigate graft cases.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

OVERALL SCORE | Annual report shows 49 of 73 files ended up in prosecution

‘Crippled’ anti-graft body was finalising Anglo-Leasing cases

Files on some of the Sh18bn scandals were almost ready as were those touching on other graft cases, new report indicates

BY JOHN NJAGI
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The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC), whose top officials have been suspended, was putting the final touches on reports into some of the Sh18 billion Anglo-Leasing scandals, an annual anti-corruption report indicates.

The report by the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) Mr Keriako Tobiko also indicates that over 70 per cent of files touching on other corruption cases handled by EACC were ready for prosecution.

Among the Anglo-Leasing-type cases where the DPP called for further investigations were a deal between the government and First Mercantile Securities Corporation for the supply and installation of VSAT equipment for the Postal Corporation of Kenya.

President Uhuru Kenyatta said he was obliged to order the payment of a Sh1.4 billion bill connected with the



BILLY K. MUTAI | NATION

Director of Public Prosecutions Keriako Tobiko at Milimani courts last month during proceedings on Anglo-Leasing cases. He directed further investigations on 11 files.

the deal, which EACC said was procured fraudulently, to clear the way for Kenya to float a Eurobond.

“Investigations established that due procurement procedures were not complied with and the accounting officer unilaterally awarded the contract to the company,” says the EACC report.

Nor had the project been budgeted for, the estimates

had not been approved by Parliament, and Postal Corporation did not carry out due diligence on the company.

But the DPP found, upon perusal of the file, that there were “gaps and deficiencies” in the investigations. The office order further investigations.

The anti-corruption watchdog, whose top officials have

been suspended, including chairman Mumo Matemu, indicated in the report tabled in the National Assembly that about 70 per cent of the files given to Mr Tobiko were ready for prosecution.

The Annual Anti-Corruption Report shows 49 of the 73 files submitted to him—none connected with Anglo-Leasing—are in prosecution. Mr Tobiko ordered further investigations on 11 files, directed administrative or departmental direction on six files, and closure of seven others. Among the files returned to EACC for further investigations are the Anglo-Leasing cases that involve procurement deals worth a combined Sh18.75 billion. The EACC also conducted further investigations as recommended by the DPP and some of the suspects have been arraigned in court. For cases yet to be prosecuted, the DPP cites challenges like preliminary objections by the defence, judicial review and constitutional petitions, and unpreparedness of the defence.

Lawyers say graft investigations now face legal hurdles

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

bers, meaning at least two members should be present. Paragraph 7 goes on to say that where there is no unanimity among the three commissioners—which is presently not there—“a decision on any matter before the commission shall be by concurrence of a majority of all the members”.

The Law Society of Kenya secretary Apollo Mboya said the composition of EACC could provide legal challenges.

“People being investigated may use the absence of the commissioners as their first line of defence,” he said.

According to Mr Mboya, the law limits the extent to which the secretariat can communicate with outside entities and forward its findings to the Office of the Director of Public Prosecution without the commissioners in place.

“The current investigations being undertaken by the EACC may be difficult to progress to the Director of Public Prosecution in the current situation,” he said.

In suspending Mr Matemu and Ms Keino, President Kenyatta said the work of the commission would not be disrupted.

“This process in no way hinders the work of the organisation which remains constitutionally established and operational,” said President Kenyatta.

It is a position Solicitor General Njee Muturi affirmed yesterday.

But constitutional lawyer Anthony Oluoch said State House was being too ambitious.

“EACC has three commissioners and two commissioners, as they were then (before the suspension), could legally transact business. The commission is like a three-legged stool, all of which have been broken.”

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GOT A QUESTION? SHOOT

Ever wondered what is Jack Wilshere's favourite movie, or if Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain likes his nickname 'The Ox' or how Francis Coquelin gets his hair to look the way it does? Wonder no more because Imperial Bank, in partnership with Arsenal, are giving you the chance to ask as many questions as you want to these soccer stars. From the 26th-29th April shoot your questions on our Facebook or Twitter pages and look out for updates on when a video with the responses will be posted.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

- Log onto our [Imperial Bank Group](#) or [@ImperialBankLtd](#) to ask your question
- Include the hashtag [#AskImperialGunners](#)
- Shoot as many questions as you want

Looking after your interest!

AMENDS | Placement of adverts for principal secretaries by PSC could shield President from questions on the illegality

Questions over Interior Secretary nominee

Competitive process was not followed in the nomination of the new Principal Secretary in the Interior Ministry

BY WALTER MENYA
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President Uhuru Kenyatta's nomination of Maj-Gen (rtd) Gordon Kihlangwa as the new Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Interior without recourse to a competitive process could be the latest in a litany of legal gaffes by State House.

Article 155(3a) provides that it is the function of the Public Service Commission (PSC) to advertise, interview and recommend to the President individuals for appointment to the position of principal secretaries.

"The President shall nominate a person for appointment as Principal Secretary from among persons recommended by the Public Service Commission," the particular section of the law states.

It is not clear whether Gen Kihlangwa, who was until his nomination to the new position on April 17 the director of immigration, went through the PSC process before his nomination. He was appointed the director of immigration last year, replacing Ms Jane Waikenda, who was appointed Deputy High Commissioner to South Africa.

Ms Waikenda is among public officials currently on suspension over graft allegations.

Attorney-General Githu Muigai told the Sunday Nation he was not in a position to respond to questions on the legality of Mr Kihlangwa's nomination as the Interior PS.

"I regret to inform you that I am unable to assist you on your



Major-General (retired) Gordon Kihlangwa (centre) during a ceremony to build the Kenya-Somalia barrier at Kiunga border point.

RIGHT OF REPLY

Errors better than laxity: Spokesman

■ The President's administration has previously been forced to walk back on appointment of Mr John Mututho to chair NACADA, and Mr Abduba Dida to chair National Constituency Development Fund board without going through Parliament.

■ State House spokesman Manoah Esipisu says it is better to make mistakes while trying to achieve something, than to sit idly hoping things will happen on their own.

enquiry as the Attorney-General is not involved in the appointment of public officers. I would advise you to direct your questions to the Head of Public Service, Mr Joseph Kinyua," he said by phone.

President Kenyatta's other legal advisers are Solicitor-General Njee Muturi, who is often perceived to be the shadow Attorney-General given his long standing links with Mr Kenyatta, and Mr Abdikadir Mohammed, who is the President's constitutional affairs adviser.

Muturi, however, told the *Sunday Nation*: "We played no role. Ask the PSC."

The PSC on Tuesday, April 21, advertised positions for principal secretaries, four days after President Kenyatta nominated Maj-Gen Kihlangwa to

the new position, along with other changes in the executive and the military.

Referring to the vacancy announcements for principal secretaries, PSC chairperson Margaret Kobia on Wednesday said her commission is mandated to recommend candidates to the President for appointment.

"PSC will select suitable individuals to fill positions of PSs in the affected ministries. We can also recommend a serving official based on merit," she said.

According to Law Society of Kenya secretary Apollo Mboya, the placement of adverts by PSC could have been made to shield the President from questions on the legality of Gen Kihlangwa's nomination.

"I suspect that PSC will just

do the paperwork to shield the President from any legal questions," said Mr Mboya.

President Kenyatta's two-year-old administration has been marked by operational and legal blunders that have raised questions about the legal advice he receives.

Not long ago, the President directed Inspector-General of Police Joseph Boinnet to enrol 10,000 would-be police recruits for training, apparently oblivious of the fact that there was a pending court case on police recruitment.

Less than 48 hours to the April 12 reporting day announced by Mr Boinnet, the chairman of the National Police Service Commission (NPSC) Johnstone Kavuludi threw a spanner in the works, calling for fresh recruitment.

Mombasa Senator Hassan Omar, a Cord legislator, says most of President Kenyatta's declarations are populist acts.

"One of Uhuru's various weaknesses is playing to the public gallery. There are no people around who can internalise some of these things for him. Unfortunately, he has got away with it even with issues that are before the courts."

In the aftermath of the April 2 Garissa University College terror attack, Deputy President William Ruto also hit the road with an ultimatum to UNHCR to close Dadaab refugee camp in three months, saying it was fomenting insecurity.

The government has since backtracked on that ultimatum, and there is a proposal to form a tripartite team to work out modalities for repatriation of the refugees.

UN: Consult before issuing advisories

BY ELVIS ONDIEKI
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Countries should be consulted before travel advisories are issued against them, the United Nations has said.

The United Nations' World Tourism Organisation said yesterday that there should be a political process involved before a state warns its residents about their overseas movement.

Its secretary-general, Dr Taleb Rifai, said the way in which some countries are currently issuing travel warnings is a form of rewarding proponents of terrorism and propagators of other vices.

Dr Rifai, who was on a one-day visit to Kenya, met with President Uhuru Kenyatta, Tourism Cabinet Secretary Phyllis Kandie, Kenya Tourism Board Managing Director Mureithi Ndegwa and other officials at State House yesterday morning.

Addressing journalists at a Nairobi hotel after the meeting, Dr Rifai said: "Sometimes it takes no more than contact between two foreign ministries to determine the necessity of an advisory," he said.

"I hope that our visit today and later visits by other UN officials will be an important gesture that the world is not afraid to come to Kenya."

Ms Kandie, speaking at the press briefing, said her ministry will step up its



Tourism Cabinet Secretary Phyllis Kandie confers with Dr Taleb Rifai, director-general of World Tourism Organisation at Serena Hotel, Nairobi, yesterday.

efforts to encourage locals and residents of other African countries to make it a habit of visiting Kenya.

Kenya has been on the receiving end of travel advisories, with the latest coming from Britain. In its March 27 warning, London told its citizens to keep off parts of Kenya.

President Kenyatta bashed this as an intimidation of Kenyans. America, Australia and France have previously

cautioned their citizens about their movement in Kenya.

Yesterday, Dr Rifai said: "Travel advisories must meet two important criteria: one, they must be specific and scientific. Second, there must be an element of time checking," he said.

The UN boss said he had visited Kenya to express solidarity with Kenyans after the April 2 terrorist attack on Garissa University College that claimed 148 lives.

Bomet governor lands global job on counties

BY JUSTUS WANGA
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Council of Governors outgoing chairman Isaac Ruto is headed to a global body on devolved governments after leading governors for two non-renewable terms.

Mr Ruto will be the focal person for Africa in the United Nations for sub-regional governments, a body based in Colombia, Latin America, that enhances sharing experiences on running of counties.

The body had representatives in the just-concluded second devolution conference in Kisumu. From Africa, Nigeria and Ghana are some of the members of the organisation.

The chairman was, however, not willing to give details of the appointment.

"I'm sure an announcement will be made at an appropriate time if that happens," he said.

The association brings together all countries with one

form of decentralised government or other.

The position will hand the governor another lifeline. As Council of Governors chair, Mr Ruto robustly took on the national government and particularly Deputy President William Ruto as a champion for devolution.

The position will also help him keep the kind of public presence he needs ahead of the 2017 elections.

At the same time, intense lobbying is going on among governors on who to succeed Mr Ruto.

Meru Governor Peter Munya, his Kakamega counterpart Wycliffe Oparanya and Mr Salim Mvurya of Kwale have thrown their hat in the ring in the quest for the chairman's position.

A number of governors have, however, hinted to the *Sunday Nation* that the next leader and his deputy are likely to be picked through consensus as elections are seen as divisive.

COUNTER | Jubilee has already criticised the push, terming it a Cord launch-pad for polls

Counties the next battlefield for Okoa Kenya plebiscite bid

Committee of experts to be split into groups that will visit all the 47 assemblies to win support for document

BY JUSTUS WANGA
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County Assemblies are now the next battleground for the referendum campaign launched by Cord this week and dubbed Okoa Kenya.

This is after the Okoa Kenya leadership announced they would be moving to the 47 legislative bodies to popularise the initiative.

The government has already criticised the referendum push, terming it a launch-pad for the 2017 polls.

Yesterday, the initiative's chairman, Mr Paul Mwangi, told *Sunday Nation* they were not taking chances since the assemblies were pivotal to the plebiscite.

"We plan to visit them as soon as the IEBC (Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission) takes over the process," he said.

Alter electoral landscape

The committee of experts will split into groups and visit all the 47 county assemblies in an attempt to win their support for the document that seeks to fundamentally alter the electoral and fiscal landscape of the country.

But before this, he said, they are inviting feedback from members of the public who have read the Bill and would want certain

aspects changed.

"We will first listen to any comments or inputs from the public so as to calibrate some parts of the Bill," he said.

The Bill will be presented to the IEBC, alongside a list of at least one million signatures, as required by law.

Mr Mwangi also said they were doing final verification of signatures before submitting the referendum Bill launched on Thursday to the IEBC.

The referendum, which has a protracted timeline, will be won or lost in the Assemblies.

Already, Cord leader Raila Odinga has warned members of the County Assembly against being compromised to thwart the process.

Intimidated or bribed

"We are telling MCAs that should they be intimidated or bribed to shoot down the Bill, we shall meet in the court of the public opinion," he declared during the launch.

Some of the issues Cord wants to achieve in the referendum include inclusivity in public appointments, land and electoral reforms, security as well as having 45 per cent of national revenue sent to counties.

The Bill will need to be supported by at least 24 counties to proceed to Parliament for approval before it goes to the President for assent.

Mr Mwangi said the plebiscite was about issues that affect Kenyans, adding that the argument that it was Cord's way of getting power was misplaced.

Government figures like Meru Senator Kiraitu Murungi have said Okoa Kenya was Cord's warm-up to the next elections.



PHOTO | PAUL WAWERU

Okoa Kenya chairman Paul Mwangi (left) and Senator Moses Wetangula. "We are doing final verification of signatures before submitting the referendum Bill launched on Thursday to the IEBC," says Mr Mwangi.

The counties are also allowed a maximum period of three months. If their assemblies approve the draft Bill, the respective speakers will deliver it to their counterparts in the two Houses of Parliament — Senate and National Assembly — with certificates that the county

assemblies have approved it.

Cord finds solace in Article 257 (10) of Chapter 16 of the Constitution on amendments, which states that if either house of Parliament fails to pass the Bill, the proposed amendment shall be submitted to the people in a referendum.

Jubilee dismisses Cord call to vote, says it's a campaign platform

BY JOHN SHILITSA
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Jubilee Coalition legislators yesterday dismissed the referendum calls dubbed Okoa Kenya by the Cord Coalition saying its leader Raila Odinga was using it to launch his presidential bid.

Meru Senator Kiraitu Murungi said the Cord coalition was bent on putting the country into a perpetual election campaign mode after it was defeated two years ago.

They described the changes proposed in appointing the Chief Justice, judges and electoral commissioners as contradictory and self-serving.

The MPs were speaking during a thanksgiving ceremony of Meru Woman representative Florence Kajuju at Consolata Primary School, Meru attended by Deputy President William Ruto. Mr Ruto asked leaders to desist from dividing Kenyans on tribal lines.

He asked parties allied to Jubilee to join the the alliance so that they can work and propagate the same ideals.

MPs Murungi, Mithika Linturi, Moses Kuria, Alice Nganga, Winnie Njuguna, Kigo Njenga, Wanjiku Muihia, Kubai Iringo, David Were, Stephen Manoti, Mary Seneta and Abdul Rahim Dawood said the proposed changes to the Constitution were meant to benefit one individual.

Mr Murungi said the government cannot be shaken by the referendum calls as it was steadfast under President Uhuru Kenyatta.

The senator said Mr Odinga was scheming as he usually does for the 2017 elections and the referendum calls were merely a ploy.

"Every time two years to the election he (Mr Odinga) always calls for a referendum...that is his game as usual as he prepares for elections," the senator said.



“

Every time two years to the election he (Mr Odinga) always calls for a referendum. That is his game” Kiraitu Murungi.

Options in attempts to save Constituency Development Fund

BY CAROLINE WAFULA
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National Assembly members are considering options of salvaging the Constituency Development Fund, including renaming the kitty and entrenching it in the Constitution.

A suggestion has been made to rename the kitty as a National Government Constituency Development Fund and restricting it to national government functions under Schedule 4.

A meeting was convened at the Safari Park hotel on Friday where legal experts representing the legislators and the Constituency Development Fund took the legislators through issues raised by the High Court relating to the principal of separation of powers and devolution as pertains to CDF operations as well as issues touching on Articles 201-206 of the Constitution.

They were also taken through options for legal redress following the High Court judgment that declared CDF unconstitutional.

The one-day retreat was held ahead of the move to court this week by the

legal team representing the MPs and the CDF to contest the High Court decision and seek an extension of the one 12 months moratorium given by the High Court to at least four years and a stay of its judgment. The legal team said it will finalise its application this weekend and will move to court under a certificate of urgency.

Both the National Assembly and the Constituency Development Fund Board have lodged appeals to the Court of Appeal contesting the High Court judgment and seeking its dismissal. Mention of the same is also expected this week.

Conditional grant

There is, also, a suggestion to make the fund a conditional grant from the national government.

The meeting at Safari Park came just a day after the Okoa Kenya movement launched its draft constitutional amendment Bill, which has included CDF as one of the issues to be submitted to a national referendum.

The Okoa Kenya proposes in its draft Bill that CDF be entrenched in the Constitution to provide that a specific portion of the revenue ap-

portioned to the government every financial year shall be allocated to carry out development priorities of the national government at the constituency level.

At the Friday meeting, members explored the possibility of amending the Constitution to entrench CDF or repeal and re-enact the disputed CDF Act 2013 to align it with the Court's judgment. All were, however, in agreement that the fund must be retained by all means.

A constitutional amendment seeking to entrench the Act in the Constitution would require the involvement of both Houses of Parliament and would take a longer period considering the timelines. It would also require a two third majority support from each House.

Constitutional lawyer Wachira Maina told the MPs that they cannot ignore the constitutional issues raised by the court. "I have a lot of sympathy for CDF because it is a good thing but there are important constitutional questions that need to be settled," he said.

He told the National Assembly members that the choice is to abol-

ish CDF or abolish the role of MPs in the fund. He has also suggested renaming CDF as National Government Constituency Development and restricting it to national government functions under Schedule 4.

Lawyer Gatonye Waweru said if argued properly in the Court of Appeal, the legal team can demonstrate that the High Court ruling was wrong. "There are clear grounds of misinterpretation and misrepresentation of facts and the law by the High Court," he said.

Duplication of funds

The High Court, in declaring the fund unconstitutional, said it was a duplication of state funds and functions, was passed without reference from the Senate yet it concerned counties, interfered with division of revenue between the national and county governments and presented issues of separation of powers in so far as the involvement of MPs was concerned.

But the legal team handling the case on behalf of Parliament and the CDF Board argue that the court got it wrong.

At the Safari Park meeting, the National Assembly members took issue with sections of the High Court judgment arguing that the court had erred and made wrong conclusions, taking issue with its position on their involvement in the implementation of CDF. Chairperson of the House select committee on the CDF Moses Lessonet argued that it remains a crucial fund despite the High Court judgment. He argued that scrapping it would disrupt projects already being implemented through the fund.

"Despite the court ruling, as MPs we have to do all that is necessary to ensure CDF continues to flow," he said.

The CDF committee chairperson said the challenge was to get the Senate to support the National Assembly members. The allocation to CDF has recently increased with lobbying from MPs. In the current financial year, Treasury allocated Sh 33 billion, an unprecedented increase from the previous allocation of Sh 23 billion. MPs are lobbying to have the allocation further increased to Sh 36 billion in the 2005/2006 financial year.

ANALYSIS | Karuti Kanyinga

The good and the utterly bad in Okoa plan



What Cord coalition is proposing is good but laced with selfish intentions. A review of how and who we elect and a leaner National Assembly will fix rot

Commentators and analysts have been making proposals on how to address problems relating to politics and development in Kenya. Kenya's history of development and politics and the post-2007 election violence has shaped how some of these issues are debated. These debates demonstrate how politics and development are intertwined. Politics and development are one and the same. Politics in this case concerns who is getting what public resources and how.

Kenyans are generally concerned about who gets what share of the "national cake". They are concerned about who gets what share of public resources.

Many politicians and even commentators make proposals on sharing of the "national cake" without making suggestions on how to address the challenges experienced in baking of the cake.

They rarely discuss how to grow the economy or improve the quantity of public resources.

All the same, the proposals on sharing of the cake found their way into the Constitution of Kenya, 2010. The Constitution introduced devolution and equalisation fund. This fund is a "catch up" fund for those who have not had a bite of the cake. These are significant in terms of addressing development problems.

The Constitution also provides for independent institutions. It provides for the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC), with responsibilities to manage elections. It also provides for institutionalisation of political parties.

But both implementation of devolution and practice of electoral politics have progressed with challenges. There have been concerns about delays by the national government in releasing funds to the county governments and in releasing the equalisation fund.

With regard to electoral politics, the IEBC has not corrected the electoral environment. There are concerns that the Registrar of Political Parties has failed to help change political parties into strong institutions.

Not all Cord proposals are sound

Okoa Kenya, an initiative of the Coalition for Reforms and Democracy (Cord), among others, has proposed amendments to the Constitution that are meant to address these challenges. Some of these proposals are good. Others are utterly bad.

Some of the proposals are drafted to draw support of various constituencies. The bad ones are a disaster. If implemented they will be a disaster to strike at an election time.

Some of the good proposals concern development. These include enabling communities where natural resources are extracted to access share of profits of these resources. They also include the proposal to increase funds allocated to the county governments

from 15 per cent to 45 per cent of the national revenue. This is where the good ones relating to development end.

There are proposals that look good but will undermine devolution that Okoa Kenya, under Cord, seeks to protect. They have proposed to entrench the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) and Ward Development Fund (WDF). Noble as these funds are "sacraments" to give to supporters and loyalists. MPs use CDF in a mysterious manner to build political capital. MCAs have copied this too.

These funds that Cord and Okoa seeks to introduce will create more conflicts over development at the county level. Ironically, Cord is introducing a new constitutional threat to devolution. Cord is seeking to firm up the foundation for devolution but is at the same time shaking this same foundation by weakening it through parallel funds. These are proposals aimed at enticing MPs and MCAs to support the initiative. And they will fully support them oblivious of the fact that they will shake the foundation of devolution including the very foundation on which MCAs thrive. They will be the main source of chaos in planning for development at the county level irrespective of whether there is the County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs) or not.

Cord's electoral proposals will lead to conflict and undermine development

One good proposal with regard to elections is the need to maintain one single voters' register. This will eliminate the existence of multiple registers. It will eliminate the possibility of using a register to manipulate any of the six elections.

Other proposals are taking Kenya back to the 1990s. Cord's proposal on appointment of commissioners to the electoral body will entrench politicisation and



A delegate during the launch of the Okoa Kenya referendum drive at Bomas of Kenya in Nairobi.

ethnicisation of the IEBC.

First political parties will nominate members on the basis of the party's numerical strength in Parliament. The parties will appoint seven commissioners. Implicit here is that there will be a commissioner from the main ethnic regions.

Two, commissioners in IEBC are meant to make policies. They are not supposed to execute but to oversee execution. The secretariat implements these policies.

To depoliticise the commission, Cord should have proposed appointment of at most five commissioners through a competitive recruitment process. The country will then have a lean policy-oriented commission. The current proposal creates a large and highly ethnicised commission.

The referendum and the election date will undermine development

The possibility of a referendum is a scary proposal. Kenya is a very polarised country. The Jubilee administration has not made any significant progress in promoting national cohesion. We are as divided as we were in the period before the post-2007 election violence.

The 2013 election deepened the divisions for some and unified new

others. Holding a referendum while preparing for a general election in the next year is like pouring fuel to smouldering logs. Cord does not seem to see this.

Even more worrying is the proposal by Cord's member party, the Orange Democratic Movement Party (ODM), to hold separate elections for presidential in August, and other elections in November after every five years.

This is not good for development. The figure below demonstrates what has been happening to economic growth and agriculture every election year since 1992.

The dotted lines show agricultural growth while the un-dotted lines show economic growth. Economic growth dropped to negative 0.3 per cent in 1991-92 period when Kenya conducted the first election after the re-introduction of multi-party democracy. Agriculture declined sharply during the period. This trend continued into the second round of multi-party elections in 1997. The decline in economic growth and agriculture was relatively less in 2002. The political competition during this period was not as intense as other periods. The opposition had formed a formidable alliance.

But the post-2007 election violence saw significant drops,

almost similar to the 1990s. The election was too close to call and competition was intense.

This trend is similar in all other sectors of the economy except the manufacturing sector. Hotels and industry is in fact the most negatively affected during an election year. Holding a referendum followed by an election will certainly affect growth for a period of not less than two years. Avoiding a referendum is a better alternative. And this can be achieved if the assemblies and Parliament debated, amended, and passed what is possible.

Omitted in the Cord Proposal

Cord has omitted amendments that would cure Kenya's problems in electoral politics and political development in general.

The proposals have not touched where it matters most: The number of elected leaders in the National Assembly, the gender rule for the National Assembly, and the need to correct the electoral system. The 349 members of the National Assembly is such a big number that members cannot have substantive debates on several pieces of legislation. Many complain they can't catch the eye of the Speaker. They can participate yet the role of the National Assembly remains representation, legislation, and oversight.

To effectively play these roles, Cord should have sought to reduce the number of MPs to at least 210 MPs that we had before the new constitution.

To meet the gender quota, Cord should have proposed an additional number of MPs elected by political parties using the list system of proportional representation. This would lead to 273 MPs. This is relatively a small crowd compared to the public rally taking place in the National Assembly.

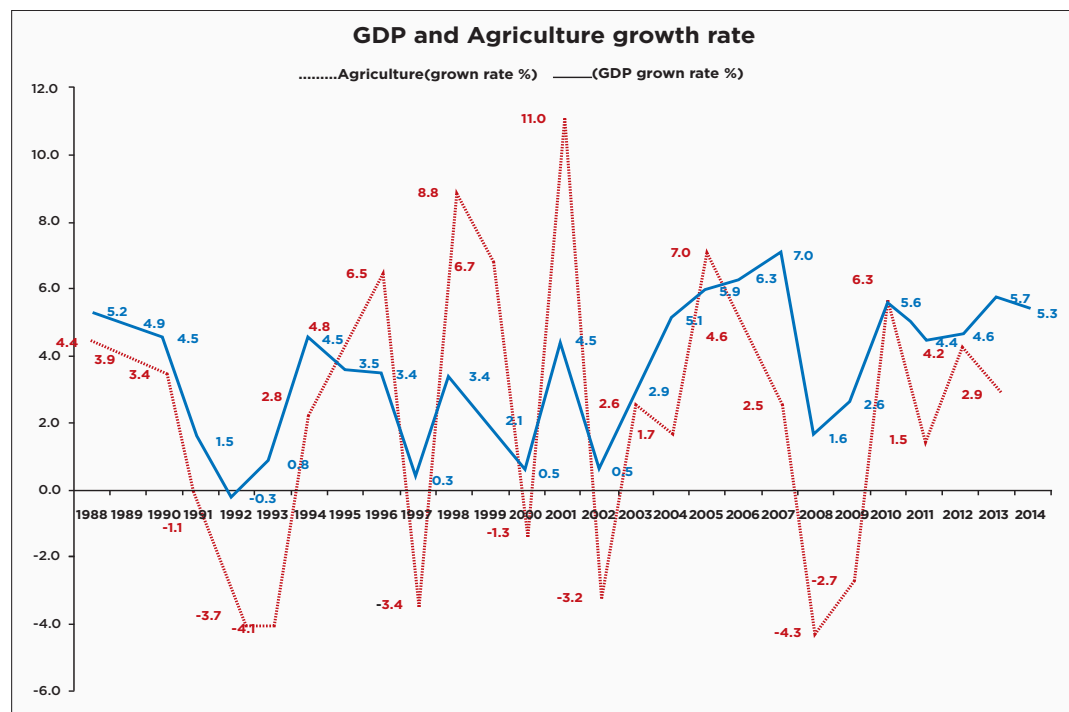
Still the country can go back to the maximum of 210 parliamentary constituency seats obtaining before the new constitution. These can be filled using the proportional representation method. This would require voting for political parties rather than individual MPs. The 210 seats would then be allocated on basis of the total number of votes that each party gets. The number of votes for each party translates into seats in the National Assembly.

If the latter is adopted, then the political parties will be required to submit a list of 210 candidates. The list should contain men and women, one after another or a zebra list, ranked from number one to 210 on basis of how the seats won will be distributed.

The party will be required to submit a list that represents all communities and regions of the country using criteria by IEBC but debated and adopted by the country.

This will cure many political problems. It will lead to a relatively smaller assembly comprising people from all corners of the country and from all socio-economic backgrounds.

Prof Karuti Kanyinga teaches at the Institute for Development Studies (IDS), University of Nairobi, karutik@gmail.com



“

One good proposal with regard to elections is the need to maintain one single voters' register. This will eliminate the existence of multiple registers. It will eliminate the possibility of using a register to manipulate any of the six elections”

MUDAVADI | Former deputy prime minister says job would derail his political plans, but supports President's appointments

I won't accept Cabinet slot, as I am Uhuru's competitor

Amani leader says he prefers to remain outside government to further his cause

BY JUSTUS WANGA

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Amani Coalition boss Musalia Mudavadi is a man at the crossroads.

If he takes a Jubilee Cabinet appointment, he would have to abandon his political machine with just two years to the General Election.

If on the other hand he takes up such an offer, it could give him the visibility and platform that he could subsequently convert into political advantage.

For the time being, he has decided that he does not want it.

"I have said times without number that I was President Uhuru Kenyatta's competitor in the last elections and my focus still remains the same. A Cabinet post is something that would tie my hands," he told the *Sunday Nation* yesterday.

But the possibility lingers. This is especially so because of the reports that he is still prominently on the radar of President Uhuru Kenyatta for appointment.

In law, a Cabinet secretary is not allowed to engage in parti-

san politics as they are public servants.

Through key figures from Western region like Mr Mudavadi, Mr Kenyatta is keen to gain a foothold in that part of the country.

Information obtained from impeccable sources revealed that Mr Kenyatta had met the former deputy prime minister at a private residence.

The agenda was to bring him on board but he reportedly declined the offer, instead suggesting that the former Justice Minister Eugene Wamalwa be appointed.

2

Number of years to the general election that would give Mudavadi visibility if he had accepted cabinet appointment.

Mr Wamalwa was appointed to steer the water and irrigation docket.

Mr Mudavadi has backed the President in appointing Mr Wamalwa as well as the nomination of Maj Gen (rtd) Gordon Kihlangwa as the new Princi-

pal Secretary in the Ministry of Interior. The move also saw Ms Monica Juma moved to the Cabinet as its secretary.

"The question people should be asking is whether there has been sufficient integration in previous appointments by Uhuru for which the answer is no. Then why do you want to complain if he is now doing the right thing?"

He said the appointments were not meant to see opposition areas from where the appointees have come join the government like some have suggested.

"When Lazarus Amayo was appointed Kenyan Ambassador to the United Kingdom, was it meant to divide his people or to sway them to join government? Absolutely not. Neither is Mwathethe's appointment (the new chief of the defense forces Samson Mwathethe). What is wrong if a Kenyan from western is appointed to the Cabinet?" he posed.

Both Mr Wamalwa and Mr Kihlangwa are from western Kenya. Mr Mudavadi asked Kenyans to support Mr Kenyatta as he reorganises his government to achieve efficiency.



FILE | NATION

Safe pair of hands: Amani Coalition leader Musalia Mudavadi.

He also touched on his relationship with Deputy President William Ruto and the suggestion that Mr Ruto would be uncomfortable with Mr Mudavadi in government.

"I enjoy a perfect relationship with the DP. It is not very long ago when we attended the same function in western," he said.

Mr Ruto has kept a notable presence in Western Kenya. He has held numerous fundraisers and presided over many other functions in what declares the importance he attaches to the

region. The UDF boss acknowledges this fact.

"Let's face it, every politician will want to find ways of gaining more ground and this is not unique to him (DP)."

The ongoing purge on graft by President Kenyatta is expected to occasion some fallout in government. *Sunday Nation* has established that a senior figure who is among those forced to step aside to pave the way for investigations into the allegations they face is shopping for an alternative political affiliation.

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Nine questions about deported spy officer that refuse to go away

Interior ministry refuses to respond to queries, saying apology settled matter; did it?

BY WALTER MENYA
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The admission that an officer with the National Intelligence Service was arrested and detained at Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport has raised more questions than answers.

The officer was arrested on April 13 "in transit travelling from Kenya to Germany" and detained for three days when he was "flown back to Kenya on April 16 aboard KLM airline," according to a statement by Interior ministry spokesperson Mwenda Njoka.

The statement, which was demanding an apology from the *Daily Nation*, was sent after it was reported on Tuesday that the officer was deported from The Hague for allegedly contacting a witness at the International Criminal Court (ICC). The paper ran a clarification on Thursday, citing the statement from the Interior ministry, that the officer had nothing to do with ICC witnesses.

However, the government's response has raised more questions. In the statement, Mr Njoka asserted that the officer "did not set foot in The Netherlands but was arrested and detained at the airport during the entire period".

The statement added: "Furthermore, the officer's travel was not in any way related to the ongoing case at the International Criminal Court. Any statement contrary to this is defamatory and a misrepresentation of the facts."

Based on the statement, the *Sunday Nation* on Thursday contacted the Interior ministry for clarification on a number of issues:

1. In the statement from the government over the matter of April 21, 2015, you sought to clarify that "...the Dutch Migration officials discovered that the individual in question had discrepancies in his travel documents which led to his detention." Arising from that, what were these "discrepancies" that could lead to the detention of the officer for three days?
2. Who was responsible for the discrepancies (Is it the officer, NIS, German Embassy or Dutch Embassy)?
3. Isn't it surprising that these



“The officer did not set foot in The Netherlands but was arrested and detained at the airport during the entire period officials at the Jomo Kenyatta Airport”

Interior ministry spokesperson Mwenda Njoka

discrepancies were only discovered at Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport and by neither the embassy issuing the travel visa in Kenya nor Kenyan immigration officials at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA)?

4. If indeed there were discrepancies as the government has said and which JKIA officials failed to discover, what does that say about Kenya's immigration process?

5. In the same statement you said that "The individual was in transit travelling from Kenya to Germany." Could you say whether the officer was on official

Kenyatta (case terminated but potential witness still under ICC jurisdiction), Deputy President William Ruto, Mr Joshua Sang' and Mr Walter Osapiri Barasa?

In response to our questions, Mr Njoka said the ministry was not willing to discuss the matter any further, which he claimed was closed when a correction was carried in the Nation on Thursday.

"We have gone through the questions and we would not want to go through the same matter again. Whatever could be said has been said," he told the *Sunday Nation*.

We made a further request to the ministry to allow the concerned NIS official speak to us, on condition that we would not reveal his identity given the nature of his job.

"Could *Sunday Nation* be allowed to interview this officer without revealing his identity so as to clarify some of the issues regarding his travel and detention in Schiphol Airport, Amsterdam?" we requested.

The ministry did not respond to this request.

There are various categories of witnesses under the protection of the ICC. Regarding Mr Ruto's and Mr Sang's cases, ICC Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda is left with at least a single witness (P-0727) before she closes her case. The witness who is under ICC protection has on occasions failed to turn up to testify demanding that his family - both nuclear and extended - be accorded protection by the ICC. Meanwhile, while President Uhuru Kenyatta's case was terminated, the ICC trial chamber on March 13 directed that "[p]rotective measures once ordered in any proceedings in respect of a victim or witness [...] shall continue after proceedings have been concluded, subject to revision by a Chamber." So far, the court has not revised that order.

assignment?

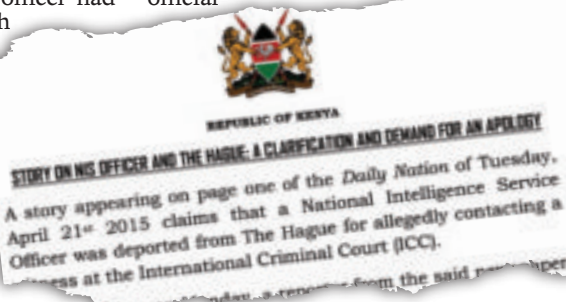
6. Which embassy issued his travel visa?

7. In the statement, you said that "The Government reads malice and political mischief in the false story published by the Nation particularly the linkage to ICC." Kindly clarify what you mean by "malice and political mischief".

Legal redress

8. The Interior ministry also said that "Failure to this (Nation issuing an apology), the Government and other aggrieved parties will be at liberty to pursue legal redress." Who are these "other aggrieved parties" you refer to since no names were mentioned in the story?

9. Is the government aware that the ICC has under its protection at least four categories of potential witnesses (some of who could have been moved to The Netherlands and other countries abroad) in the cases against President Uhuru



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Why our graduates are among the top 10 most preferred by employers

Accredited programmes, adequate learning and research infrastructure, and competent faculty put the university head and shoulders above the rest

Graduates from Mount Kenya University are among the top 10 most preferred by employers in Kenya. A survey by Corporate Staffing Services Ltd shows that jobseekers with certification from MKU are much sought after. The 2015 Talent Report titled *Hiring: Trends, Challenges and Future Outlook* puts MKU in the same league as Strathmore University, Catholic University, USIU, Daystar, Kenya

Methodist University, Kenya Institute of Management, African Nazarene, Presbyterian and Baraton University in terms of graduates acceptability. The report notes that the main reasons why the graduates from these universities are preferred are the reputation of the university in terms of specialization, years of existence and society involvement, for example MKU's Graduate Enterprise Academy. Credible cer-

tificates given by these universities account for 22% of the score, relevant skills impacted on the graduates 15%, development of the graduates holistically as well as academically 14%, and technical expertise and knowledge 9%. Recently, MKU developed a Guide to Employability Skills for its students. The Guide will help the students/graduates improve their competitiveness in the job market.

Professional bodies that have accredited the programmes we offer

- | | |
|---|--|
| ✓ Commission for University Education | Technicians and Technologists Board |
| ✓ Medical Practitioners and Dentists Board | ✓ Nursing Council of Kenya |
| ✓ Clinical Officers Council of Kenya | ✓ Pharmacy and Poisons Board |
| ✓ Kenya Nutritionists and Dietician's Institute | ✓ Advance Collegiate Schools of Business |
| ✓ Kenya Dental Technologists Association | ✓ Association of African Business Schools |
| ✓ Oral Health Association of Kenya | ✓ Council for Legal Education - <i>In final process towards Full Accreditation</i> |
| ✓ Kenya Medical Laboratory | |

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- | | |
|---|---|
| ✓ International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology | ✓ Institute of Primate Research (Under the National Museums of Kenya) |
| ✓ Thika Level 5 Hospital | ✓ University of Cincinnati - USA |
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| ✓ Mathari Hospital | ✓ Xavier University - USA |
| ✓ Gertrude's Hospital | ✓ Copenhagen Business School- Executive, Denmark |
| ✓ Pumwani Hospital | ✓ Aegis Trust - Kigali, Rwanda |
| ✓ Chulaimbo District Hospital | |



Prof. Stanley Waudu,
Vice-Chancellor

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SENATE PLAZA - THIKA



An artist's impression of the Senate Plaza, whose construction at Thika Main Campus is currently ongoing. The 13-storey building will be complete by November 2015. It will complement the existing world-class infrastructure.



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GLOBAL RECOGNITION OF SCHOOL OF BUSINESS & ECONOMICS



Dean, School of Business Prof. Edwin Odhuno (left) presents the AACSB membership certificate (of USA) to MKU Vice-Chancellor Prof. Stanley Waudo.

The School of Business and Economics has officially gained the membership of the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) based in Tampa, Florida in United States of America. The MKU School of Business and Economics is now a member of a growing global network of more than 1,300 educational institutions, busi-

nesses and organizations, dedicated to advancing management education worldwide. AACSB members represent over 40,000 faculty and 1,000,000 students majoring in business and accounting at universities around the world. Becoming a member of the prestigious AACSB is the first step towards gaining international accreditation from the organization.

Diverse faculty is our strength



Prof. Amin E. Amin,
Dean, School of
Pharmacy

The Canadian national holds a Ph.d in Pharmaceutical Sciences and has over 30 years of extensive international pharmaceutical industry and technology in Research & Development, manufacturing technologies and management of industrial scale high tech operations in different parts of the world.



Prof. Paul Adiukwu,
School of Pharmacy

The Head of Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry hails from Nigeria and has held several senior positions in various universities in Africa. He will steer practical training in pharmacy as the university sets up a model pharmaceutical plant.



An automatic tissue processor, one of the ultra-modern equipment used by students from MKU Medical School

Come see our ground breaking innovations

MKU will be one of the universities exhibiting its ground breaking innovations at the National Commission of Science, Technology and Innovations week, which will be held between May 11 and 15 at this year. The university has a dedicated Socio-Economic Research and Community Engagement Programme whose goal

is to oversee successful commercialization of innovations by staff and students. Some of the innovations include:

- ✓ Tumbling composter - an innovation for making organic manure
- ✓ Domestic DC/AC food dryer.
- ✓ Advanced home security system
- ✓ Flickers 3 dimension scanner and printer.

Varsity sweeps top awards at National Drama Festival, 2015

In the end, the best team won. And that was Mount Kenya University, represented at the 56th Edition of the Kenya National Drama Festival by its various campuses. The six-day event held at different, though adjacent venues in Nakuru town, attracted more than 450 institutions who represented the different regions in the country. The preliminaries to select the institutions that would represent the regions in the national finals had been held in March. The main sponsors of the event included Ministry of Education, Kenya National Drama Festival, Mount Kenya University and Nacada. It was themed 'Enhancing Social Responsibility for National Responsibility.'

OVERALL WINNING UNIVERSITY



Mount Kenya University Vice-Chancellor Prof. Stanley Waudo flanked by staff and students with an array of awards the institution won in the 56th Edition of the Kenya National Drama Festival. The university was represented by its campuses from different counties in Kenya.

"We are now a powerhouse in theatre and performing arts in general. These awards prove that we are training all rounded graduates," - Ruth Mutahi, Director of the Institute of Film, Creative and Performing Arts.

LIST OF AWARDS WON BY MKU

MKU was number one out of 21 participating universities. It scooped five out of 10 most competitive trophies. In addition, the institution walked away with 42 Certificates. The movie My Heart Will Go On, won several awards. The university is now preparing to shoot a world-class film called The Last Result.

Special Awards

- ✓ Overall University Award
- ✓ Most Prolific University
- ✓ Best Modern Dance - "Ukombozi"
- ✓ Best Cultural Dance - "Shisanda"
- ✓ Second runners up - Solo Verse, "Mbegu"

Film Awards

- ✓ Best Screen Advert
- ✓ Best Picture -Runners up
- ✓ Best Screen Play - 2nd Runners up
- ✓ Best Actor- 2nd Runners up

DIASPORA | Would it not be better to set up a technology-based voting mechanism accessible from all 50 states?

Debate rages over proposed polling centres in the USA

Residents argue over perceived bias in picking areas allegedly friendly to ruling alliance

BY CHRIS WAMALWA
PHILADELPHIA, USA

Last Saturday, Ann Kariuki, a Kenyan-born resident of Springfield, Pennsylvania, drove for more than three hours to Silver Springs, Maryland, to join a group of Kenyans in the area who were welcoming her former collegemate, Kenyan ambassador to the US Robinson Githae.

The welcoming ceremony, a foods-drinks-and-speeches affair organised by Kenyans living in the Washington, DC, Maryland and Virginia areas commonly known as the DMV has become sort of a tradition for any incoming Kenyan ambassador. It is usually a festive affair full of song and dance, prayers and speeches.

“I like the food, the music and generally all the trappings of the occasion because they demonstrate our shared values and common hospitality as Kenyans, but to be honest with you, I’m interested in the ambassador’s vision for the diaspora especially diaspora voting,” Ms Kariuki told the *Sunday Nation* moments before the ceremony began.

At the event the new Kenyan

diplomat announced that the Uhuru Kenyatta administration had chosen several major cities in the US to be polling centres for the next general election. Although many Kenyans living abroad had anticipated debate around the criteria used by the government to choose Dallas, Texas, Boston, Massachusetts, Atlanta, Georgia, Minneapolis, Minnesota and Seattle, Washington, as polling stations, the firestorm that followed this announcement was unprecedented.

As soon as the report appeared in the *Daily Nation*, Cord supporters in the US issued a press statement claiming the Jubilee Alliance was planning to rig the diaspora vote. “If you live here in the US, then you know very well that the cities that the government has identified as polling stations are dominated by people from the so called Mt Kenya region. How then can this not be a strategy for Jubilee to rig the elections?” asked Jimmy Odhiambo, a resident of Dallas, Texas.

Mr Odhiambo said many pro-opposition members in the US were skeptical that Kenyans in the

six proposed polling centres were biased towards government. He said that the six cities are in states dominated by people from central Kenya and that the government will likely inflate the numbers to favour the incumbent President. But there are those who believe the polling places in the US were selected wisely based on the Kenyan diaspora demographics despite the fact that majority of Kenyans found in those states are members of the Kikuyu ethnic group.

No cause for alarm

“The reality is that the Kikuyus are the dominant Kenyan group in the US whichever state one chooses. If the criterion was based on those states with a significant population of Kenyans, then in my view, there is no cause for alarm, but as you know, this is a political process and when it comes to politics, Kenyans are very partisan,” said Abubakar Rajab of Wilmington, Delaware.

Ms Kariuki agrees with Mr Rajab that the announcement was bound to cause a controversy. She said the idea of voting in the six cities was floated before the last



Kenya's ambassador to the US, Robinson Githae during a conference for all Kenyan ambassadors at the coast in March.

election but rejected by Jubilee who believed the ambassador at the time (Elkanah Odembo) was a close ally of then Prime Minister Raila Odinga.

Lister Nyaringo, a Kenyan resident of Jersey City, New Jersey, believes technology-based voting would be the best option for diaspora voting, saying that there are Kenyans in all 50 states.

“So this strategy is meant to ensure that only those who are

banded together by ethnic affiliations get to vote,” she said.

In addition to its embassy in Washington, Kenya has consulates in New York and Los Angeles. Earlier this year the Foreign ministry named honorary consuls in Minneapolis, Atlanta and Chicago, Illinois.

Jorum Ragem, a Kenyan in California, said the the estimated two million diaspora votes could determine Kenya’s next election.

Ababu defiant even as his political fortunes take a dip

BY SUNDAY NATION REPORTER
sundaynation@ke.nationmedia.com

Budalang’i MP Ababu Namwamba is a man immersed in politics, and he could be facing his lowest moment since he made his debut in the National Assembly about eight years ago.

Recently, he was not only removed from the helm of the powerful Public Accounts Committee (PAC), now dissolved, but also barred from sitting in the new one.

His error, according to the Powers and Privileges Committee, was that he made unsubstantiated corruption claims against some of his colleagues in the defunct committee.

His woes were compounded by the decision of High Court Judge Weldon Korir who declined to issue temporary orders barring the implementation of a damning report by the Powers and Privileges Committee, which recommended that they do not sit in the new PAC.

Mr Namwamba earned the nickname *Jenerali* (General) because of his unflinching defence of ODM party leader Raila Odinga years ago.

Whereas some say his rise through party ranks has been meteoric, to others, it has been earned through steady and



FILE | NATION
ODM secretary-general Ababu Namwamba.

demonstrated commitment to the ideals and agenda of the movement.

To some, Mr Namwamba’s life in ODM has been a classic case of a political supernova – that of a man who radiates as much light as the sun before fading away.

Within ODM circles, there was talk that some members want him replaced as secretary-general in the wake of the decision to disband the PAC. However, fear the action would have serious political ramifications for a party that is hoping to capture state power in 2017 has complicated the plot.

Mr Namwamba is no doubt one of the most promising politicians from western Kenya, and hounding him out of the position would certainly have an effect on the party and Mr

Odinga’s presidential bid.

Still, faced with dwindling fortunes that he attributes to machinations within his party as well as elements in the ruling Jubilee Alliance, the son of Budalang’i—according to the grapevine—could be looking beyond ODM, an issue he has dismissed with contempt.

With President Uhuru Kenyatta “looking west” in his bid to attract the Luhya into his fold which started with the nomination of former Saboti MP Eugene Wamalwa to the Cabinet, the idea cannot be completely ruled out that that the Head of State could be toying with the idea of having influential and disgruntled ODM members on his side ahead of the next General Election.

Former Deputy Prime Minister Musalia Mudavadi is also said to be among those on Mr Kenyatta’s radar.

In the face of the quandary, the lawmaker is, however, projecting an image of a battle-hardened general warning those who have “rushed” to write him off as committing a grave mistake.

“You can never dim a bright star by throwing cheap mud at it. I am in a better political place today than I was yesterday. Now I know my political enemies intimately and their style. Take it from me, this star can only shine brighter,” he said.



GOVERNANCE | Break from the centre threatened by runaway insecurity and poor ties between national and county governments

Devolution brings hope to counties

Mandera has recorded its first ever caesarian delivery while W. Pokot now has a mortuary

BY EMEKA-MAYAKA GEKARA
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gmayaka@ke.nationmedia.com

Former Prime Minister Raila Odinga almost shed tears during the second annual conference on devolution.

His speech was directed at President Uhuru Kenyatta who was seated barely four metres away.

Mr Odinga was recounting the experience of the Kisumu mother whose daughter was killed in the Garissa terrorist attack after waiting for help for nearly seven hours. The Second Year Education student was shot as her father listened on the mobile phone.

The Opposition leader cited the student’s killing to demonstrate failure by the President’s security teams to protect and save lives. Mr Odinga also revealed that he called the President to express his solidarity with him after the attack that left 148 people dead.

“Where was the help? Mr President, your people are letting you down. You must crack the whip,” an emotional Odinga told the President.

President Kenyatta, who spoke later, did not respond to Mr Odinga’s statement.

Security is a function of the national government but it dominated discussions during the three-day conference to take stock of devolution two years after its inception.

The overriding argument was that though a national government function, some elements of security should be devolved.

Governors and some senators led by Yusuf Haji (Garissa), strongly believe

that county governments can play a critical role in supporting the national government to secure Kenya.

The governors are particularly hostile to suggestion that they could misuse security agencies for political reasons.

Their argument revolves around the responsibilities assigned to county governments, which they say will be impossible to implement without security.

“Most of our roles are implementation. You cannot develop a county an insecure environment. The attacks in northern Kenya have disrupted key sectors such as education and health,” said Wajir Governor Ahmed Abdullahi.

According to Mr Abdullahi, the Constitution allows the transfer of a responsibility to another government if the latter can execute it better in the spirit of cooperation.

And there was almost consensus amongst governors that though the 2010 Constitution allowed consultation and cooperation between the two levels of government, the national government was reluctant to engage the sub-nationals.

The result is an arrangement in which the national government perceives itself as the prefect, and Big Brother, according to Siaya Governor Cornel Rasanga. There is mutual suspicion and the national government comes out as a reluctant partner.

The governors proposed that Administration Police be placed under county governments.

They asked for amendments to the proposed County Policing Authorities to be chaired by governors.

Tana River Governor Hussein Dado, Chairman of the Council of Governors Committee on Security, said their role in ensuring the safety of Kenyans could not be overstated.

“We need the AP under the governors and we can assure you that 70 per cent of the problems of insecurity in the counties would be solved,” he



FILE | NATION
Former Prime Minister Raila Odinga chats with Kiambu Governor William Kabogo as Nairobi Governor Evans Kidero looks on during the second Devolution Conference in Kisumu on April 21.

said.

Listening to delegates from across the country, devolution is a story of hope, rebirth, transformation and resolute optimism amidst challenges. It is the story of the first caesarian delivery in Mandera. The first inch of tarmac in Garissa. New boreholes in Turkana. New roads where none existed in Vihiga. The first mortuary in West Pokot. An avocado factory in Kisii. Tapped water in Bungoma. Fertiliser for farmers in Busia and Kakamega. Cheaper roads in Meru and Machakos. Drums at Nairobi roundabouts and new power brokers called members of county assembly.

The activities of county governments raise the enduring question on what the national government was doing for 50 years.

The devolution system, which sought to disperse resources from the centre, is touted as the single most transformative feature of the 2010 Constitution.

County government are struggling to address gaps and development challenges created by the national government since independence.

“Devolution is like independence to us. We are starting from scratch, filling the gap that was not addressed by national governments for more than 50 years. There was a deliberate decision not to develop certain areas,” says Pokot Governor Simon Kachapin.

But there are challenges. There is the question of a weak Senate—“the guardian angel of devolution”, which many experts reckon has not been effective in supporting county government by passing laws necessary laws, especially on sharing of resources, taxation and the role of the devolved units in the management of game and national parks. The other is the sharing of revenue between the national and county governments.

The governors argue that functions assigned to them are largely

implementation while the national government handles security, roads, a huge portion of education and policy.

The county government handle agriculture, rural roads, health, early childhood education, trade and industrialisation, polytechnics, water and sports.

“We don’t understand why the national government, which deals with policy, should retain 80 per cent of the national revenue. Money should follow the devolved functions,” said Mr Abdullahi.

Corruption is one of the biggest threat to devolution, with some county treasuries being turned into “feeding troughs” for officials.

President Kenyatta, who recently directed Cabinet secretaries and parastatal chiefs to step aside to pave way for investigations into corruption allegations against them, warned governors against entrenching corruption in counties.

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A woman breaks down after viewing the body of a relative who was killed during the Garissa terror attack.

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EQUALITY | Prof Nyong'o says proposals must go through political parties

Clock ticks for gender rule as August deadline beckons

Parties have an August 27 deadline to effect law that has huge ramifications

BY PATRICK LANGAT
patrick.k.langat@gmail.com

Debate on how to satisfy the one-third gender rule has taken the centre-stage with some senators and experts saying that 80 of the 290 seats in the National Assembly be dedicated to women.

The two Houses of Parliament and political parties have until August 2 to enact legislation to make the rule law.

Whereas devolution expert Dr Mutakha Kangu wants the number of constituencies reduced by half and voters required to elect a man and a woman in every constituency, Kakamega Senator Boni Khalwale wants 80 of the current 290 seats to be dedicated to women.

These are some of the proposals made at the second annual devolution conference in Kisumu to address the headache that is the achievement of the one-third gender rule.

Gender commission chairperson Winfred Lichuma warned that failure to enact the rule may render many laws unconstitutional.

"There is no option but an amendment of the Constitution through a parliamentary initiative. As long as we do not elect women, we will have to nominate them and be ready to take care of the expenses," said Ms Lichuma.

The Supreme Court had given the Senate and the National Assembly until August 27.

Kisumu Senator Prof Anyang' Nyong'o wants political parties forced to allow women to run at the expense of men while former



TOM OTIENO | NATION

A delegate speaks on the last day of the devolution conference in Kisumu.

presidential candidate Martha Karua also supported the reduction in the number of constituencies to give the remaining number to women to achieve the one-third ratio.

Mombasa Senator Hassan Omar and Prof Nyong'o also warned that Parliament could be declared a nullity if it fails the gender rule test.

Quick decisions

"After August, people will question the credibility of the Bills generated in both Houses with claims that they are not properly constituted. Every process will be rendered illegal and this will paralyse their functions," said Omar.

"If we don't want Parliament to be declared a nullity, we need to sit down as parties and make quick decisions in the next one month," Prof Nyong'o said.

Dr Khalwale's proposal, which seemed to be based on the idea that affirmative action had rewarded

women who were not interested in a seat in the first place, seeks to reward those that he said had dirtied their hands in politics. In the governor's case, Dr Khalwale said, the woman who gets the most votes in the nominations automatically becomes the deputy governor.

In the Senate, Dr Khalwale wants a given number of women who receive the highest votes in the Senate race to be chosen as a second member of a delegation.

"We will get those 16 women who fought their way in politics but lost from whichever county," said Dr Khalwale.

Currently, nominated senators do not have voting power as only elected senators are "leaders of a delegation" and are the only people allowed to vote.

In the National Assembly, the Kakamega senator proposed that the constituencies be reduced to 210. He proposed that the 80 constituencies he called "virtual" be

given randomly to women election losers who garner most votes in their individual constituencies.

However, Prof Nyong'o faulted the proposal, saying they cannot occur in a vacuum and must happen through political parties.

"We need proportional representation where these political parties are told that they must have certain nominations given to one gender to achieve this," he said.

For Prof Nyong'o, the parties must be asked to decide to nominate women to positions and failure to do so must attract sanctions.

"This can only be achieved if the parties give tickets to women and they are supported to run. All this can happen if all parties sit and decide to meet this constitutional provision," said the Kisumu senator.

For Dr Kangu, the only sure way to solve the impasse is to cut the number of constituencies by half and force Kenyans to elect a man and a woman.

"That way, we will all be equal," said Dr Kangu, who led the 2010 task force on devolved government that proposed how counties should operate.

Mr Isaac Ruto, the outgoing chairman of the Council of Governors, called for discussions on the best option for Kenya.

"The answer will lie in representation. We have no answers as to why men love women, and women love men," said the Bomet governor.

Ms Karua said the parties must take the bull by the horns and ensure the provision is implemented.

"Political parties have to bite the bullet and reserve seats for the disadvantaged groups. Let the Jubilee Coalition lead," she said.

"Somehow, we just have to stand up and say these seats are for the disadvantaged group and no turning back about it," she said.

We're given raw deal in passing laws: Speaker

BY ANITA CHEPKOECH
AChepkoech@ke.nationmedia.com

The Senate has accused President Uhuru Kenyatta of sidelining it in the passing of key laws.

Members also accused the President of failing to tap into the expertise in the Senate.

"Our House is a high concentration of power and brains and extensive expertise. We also have a great commitment to devolution," Speaker Ekwe Ethuro said at the devolution conference that ended Friday in Kisumu.

There are a considerable number of former ministers, top lawyers and scholars in the Senate.

According to Mr Ethuro, the Senate has now been forced to generate their own Bills.

"I am embarrassed to note that apart from the annual county allocation of revenue amendment Bill, not a single Bill has come to the Senate from the national Executive and the county governments through the Council of Governors as the proposers and executors of public policy," Mr Ethuro said.

"We have, therefore, been left to our own devices to generate legislation based on our legal undertaking of the Constitution without the benefits of the practitioners," he said.

Considering these circumstances, he said, the Senate has done extremely well, having generated 48 Bills, 150 motions, and passed numerous resolutions, including one to transfer all the functions that have been requested by counties and to have resources



Attempts to disband the Senate will not succeed. We have remained faithful to the cause"

Senate Speaker Ekwe Ethuro

follow those functions.

Mr Ethuro said the Senate was an integral part of devolved governance and attempts to disband it would not succeed.

He said they would not allow the Senate to be killed.

"Senate plays a critical role in legislative agenda and we have remained faithful to the cause and shouldered the first historical burden of being a pioneer institution. Our role as the guardian angel of devolution cannot be wished away," he said.

Governor Hussein Dado (Tana River) called for strengthening the Senate to give it more powers to protect counties.

"Any Bills touching on counties should go through the Senate. But you find that even the most important of the laws touching on development in counties never get to Senate," he said.

Mr Dado said: "Senate should be strengthened as a proper upper House. It should even override some decisions made by the National Assembly."

Mr Ethuro said the devolution journey had faced serious challenges.

County assemblies speakers and governors are being impeached, fist-fights are being witnessed in some and the units still agitating for more resources and collecting less revenue than their discredited local authorities, he said.

He added that the Equalisation Fund was yet to be operationalised.

Doctors and nurses were striking because they want health to be made a national function while 15 counties have high mortality rates. He said the teacher shortage was so chronic that nobody even talked about it and that the few in some marginalized counties were being recalled by their unions on account of insecurity.

Court cases, he said, were the order of the day in the devolution family.

MPs derided for skipping conference

BY PATRICK LANGAT
patrick.k.langat@gmail.com

MPs have been put on the spot for snubbing the devolution conference hosted by governors in Kisumu.

All the MPs lined up as panelists of various sessions in the three-day conference to take stock of devolution at Kisumu's Tom Mboya Hall failed to show up.

Though the secretariat said all members of the National Assembly were invited, only Mrs Rose Nyamunga (Kisumu Women Rep), Mr Ken Obura (Kisumu Central) and Aduma Awour (Nyakach) attended the official opening by President Uhuru Kenyatta.

Chairperson of National Assembly committees Samuel Chepkonga (Justice and Legal Affairs), his Administration and National Security counterpart Asman Kamama, Adan Mohamed (Agriculture), Rachel Nyamai (Health) and Mbita MP Millie Odhiambo were lined up to

speak at the meeting, which ended on Friday.

Dr Mutakha Kangu, who led the task force on Devolved Government that proposed how counties should operate in 2011, described the National Assembly as part of the problem that affects counties.

"There are serious issues that the MPs and the governors must discuss and it is such a shame that none of them came here," he said during the last day of the conference.

Known enemies

Council of Governors chairman Isaac Ruto said MPs were the "known enemies of devolution".

"If they are not opposing the taxes we propose, they are busy undermining allocation to counties," said the Bomet governor.

Other governors who questioned the MPs' absence were John Nyagarama (Nyamira), Hussein Dado (Tana River) and Patrick Khaemba (Trans Nzoia).

3

The number of MPs who attended the official opening ceremony.

However, Mr Dado took a conciliatory tone, saying MPs were "busy with equally important businesses."

Speaking to *Sunday Nation*, Mr Chepkonga and Ms Nyamai said they had not been "officially invited."

"How do you put me in a panel and you do not even inform me about it? Am I supposed to abandon my parliamentary obligations to attend a devolution conference?" Mr Chepkonga asked.

Ms Nyamai said she could not have attended because she does not like "gatecrashing."



KENYA LAND ALLIANCE

PETITION TO THE CABINET SECRETARY IN-CHARGE OF LAND, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT OFFICE ON PROPOSED AMMENDMENTS TO THE NATIONAL LAND COMMISSION ACT, LAND ACT AND LAND REGISTRATION ACT, ALL OF 2012 TO WHITTLE DOWN POWERS OF NATIONAL LAND COMMISSION

The Kenya Land Alliance, KLA representing a network of civil society organizations and individuals committed to effective advocacy for land laws and policy reforms wishes to formally lodge this petition concerning proposed amendments to the National Land Commission Act, the Land Act and the Land Registration Act, all of 2012. We abhor the intentions of the proposed amendments to whittle down powers of the National Land Commission (NLC) as enshrined in Article 67 of the Constitution. The amendments spear-headed by the Executive branch of the National Government are not only retrogressive but also an affront to the letter and spirit of the Constitution. They go against and ignore the requirement of participation of the people and autonomy of Constitutional Commissions enshrined in the Constitution.

KLA has reviewed the background and rationale of the proposed amendments. In this regard, we wish to draw the attention of the Cabinet Secretary in-charge of Land, Housing and Urban Development Office that the amendments offend the imperatives of land reforms on the following issues:

- **The independence of the National Commission as a Constitutional Commission**
- **The role and powers of the Executive**
- **The Mandate of National Commission on the management of public land**
- **The Review of the National Land Policy**

1. Independence of the National Land Commission as a Constitutional Commission

Our main concern is that the proposed amendments negate and reverse constitutional protection of public land management, its administration and the functions of the NLC as an independent constitutional commission and the public interest of Kenyans to whom all land in Kenya belongs. The National Executive proposed amendments for reasons that the land laws expanded NLC's mandate beyond the constitutional intention. Conveniently, the National Executive disregarded Article 67(3) of the Constitution providing for additional functions of the NLC in the national legislations. It is noteworthy that national legislations are intended to detail and operationalize the constitutional provisions. Based on the wrong assumptions, the National Executive seek to amend Section 28 of the Land Act to give Lands Ministry NLC role to collect rent and taxes emanating from the constitutional function of the NLC to assess tax on land premium under Article 67(1) (g). The National Executive alluded to unconstitutionality of Section 5(2) (e) of the NLC Act providing managerial and administrative role of the NLC over unregistered trust land. The Constitution 'vests' unregistered trust land in the county government and NLC's managerial and administrative functions does not contradict the Constitution in any way.

In similar vein, other amendments whittling the NLC's power include deleting the role of the NLC to develop and maintain an effective land information management system and provisions establishing County Land Management Boards; giving up the NLC function of compensation and compulsory acquisition, change of user and extension of leases and management of settlement programs. Furthermore, the amendments suggest the substituting of the word "Commission" with "Cabinet Secretary" or "National or County Government" in numerous sections. This results in the grant of authoritarian powers to the Cabinet Secretary to deal unilaterally with public, private and community land. These draconian measures seem to originate from the Executive Order no. 2 of 2013. Thus, it is KLA's petition that the NLC as a Chapter 15 Commission is protected by the Constitution. Articles 248 and 249 clearly provide the independence and the categorical non-interference and control by any person or authority. Consequently, the amendments cannot be undertaken in clear disregard of the Constitutional protection of the NLC.

2. The Role and Powers of the Executive

The role and powers of the National Executive are limited by the Constitution to ensure the protection of the rule of law. Consequently, KLA petitions that exercise of all public power with respect to land must comply with the Constitution and the law as required by all arms of government. This calls for rationality in the exercise of all powers by the National Executive. In this

respect, KLA wishes to point out that the Executive Order No. 2 of 2013 while demarcating the functions of the Cabinet Secretary in charge of Land, Housing and Urban Development erred in placing administration of public land as designated by the Constitution under the said Cabinet Secretary. By placing the NLC as one of the institutions under the mandate of the Ministry in-charge of land matters, the Executive Order is out of sync with the Constitution. The functions, powers and responsibilities of the NLC under Article 67 of the Constitution have been drastically reduced by the Executive Order and this explains the incessant disputes between the Lands Ministry and the NLC. Indeed, the Executive Order blatantly violates the provisions of Article 67, principles within Chapter 5 of the Constitution and the national value of governance articulated in Article 10.

3. The Mandate of National Commission on the management of public land

Article 67 of the Constitution read together with Section 5 of the NLC Act sets out the functions of the NLC, the main one being to manage public land on behalf of the national and county governments. Thus, the Executive Order No.2 of 2013 cannot purport to grant the Lands Ministry the same constitutional function of the NLC. The order violates the rule of law, a value of our democracy and threatens the constitutional principles and framework which was the results of the efforts and struggles of Kenyans in the long journey towards land reforms. We hold that the objective of efficient, sustainable and transparent land administration cannot be achieved by violating the Constitution and granting National Land Commission functions to the Lands Ministry.

4. The Review of the National Land Policy

We are fully cognizant of the National Land Policy (NLP) review envisaged after every 10 years. We concede to the fact that the government may wish to revisit the Policy before the lapse of 10 years. KLA is aware that policies especially those relating to land are dynamic and may require such earlier review. This must however be done in a participatory process consistent with the National values and principles of governance enshrined in the Constitution. KLA petitions that such review must not be aimed at granting the National Executive and its structures, particularly the Cabinet Secretary in-charge of the land docket, the constitutional powers of the NLC to administer public land. We reiterate that the state organ mandated to ensure efficient, effective and sustainable management of public land as envisaged by the NLP is the National Land Commission. This body was later established by Article 249 of the Constitution as an independent Commission that is part of the National government. All members of our society must remember that land reforms are not just about issuing title deeds and accumulating power rather it is about nation building.

Signed for and on behalf of KLA members:

Odenda Lumumba

Chief Executive Officer, KLA

THE WEEK THAT WAS | Kwendo Opanga

They all want to be governor when they grow up



Influence:
It is a position that many leaders did not understand but have figured out it's the centre of power

You saw them in Kisumu, didn't you? Listen, graft allegations notwithstanding; censure from Parliament aside and, ignoring threats of impeachment by Members of County Assemblies (MCAs), this is for certain: after the President and Deputy President, the most coveted elective job in Kenya today is that of governor.

Why? Because compared to governors, Senators and MPs come across to the public as agitators. Governors run governments and have power. Governors have the power to hire Cabinets, which gives them latitude in placing their point men in strategic places and positions, usually with an eye on the next General Election. Senators and MPs do not have such power. While MPs have awesome legislative and oversight power, the Senate is a weak institution, struggling to find its place in Kenya's new governance structure. And, legislative and oversight powers are not easy to translate into palpable strength on the political stump.

Governors have control of budgets that run into billions of shillings. That gives them enviable leverage in approval of development and infrastructural projects, their location, size and timing and in awarding of big and lucrative tenders. Governors can change the economic landscapes of

their counties and with them their politics.

In terms of territory, governors and senators have expansive constituencies and massive electorates because they are voted in by entire counties. But where governors will be judged on tangible benefits enjoyed by their electors, legislative and oversight delivery by the Senate is not easy to sell as a vote-getter.

Governors can win over ordinary people if their policies lead to the growth of small businesses, agriculture and agri-businesses and, therefore, create wealth and jobs and improve household economies. This way, governors are, indeed, the drivers of devolution whose core objective is improving the economic lot of ordinary Kenyans.

If governors are transformative and successful, their constituents will access services swiftly and conveniently. And, crucially, county economies will grow. When that happens, ordinary Kenyans may forget there is a national government in Nairobi. It follows that if governors win the trust of Kenyans their Council

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Governors can win over people if their policies lead to growth”

of Governors could easily become Kenya's most powerful political lobby.

Conversely, if ordinary people will have attention and time mostly for county governments because of efficient delivery of services, governors may seek new challenges, especially during the last two years of their second terms. Success brews and builds ambition, which means getting governors will at this time have their sights on the presidency.

Little wonder, two years into the new dispensation politicians are assessing their positions and making decisions about their future. First out of the gates was Nairobi Senator Gideon Mbuvi Sonko. It is not clear yet what he wants to do with the governor's job even as he provides Nairobi with free ambulance, wedding, funeral and clean-up services.

But here is why Funyula MP Paul Otuoma wants to gun for the Busia governor's seat come the next General Election: “In addition to the port potential as a link to the Great Lakes region and Central Africa, Busia County has a huge capacity for cement production, organic fertiliser manufacture and large-scale cassava and sugar production.”

None is on, says Dr Otuoma, because of a county leadership so steeped in wrangling it mis-

erably fails to prioritise and focus development agenda. So Dr Otuoma will seek to transition from MP to governor in order to realise his dream for Busia. Why did he not have this county vision in 2012?

It is safe to argue that at the time, most politicians, outgoing MPs included, had not figured out what it meant to be an MP, senator, governor or even MCA in the new dispensation. Three years on, MPs and Senators have decided to either live in the shadow of the power of governors or become governors themselves after the next General Election.

I can also bet that come 2022, a governor will be in the race for president and in future successful governors of Nairobi will always fancy a presidential run. Such a candidate will run on his record as governor which, he will argue, justifies his claim to national leadership and points to the kind of governance he is offering Kenyans. Yes, MPs and senators want to be governors when they grow up. Therefore, governors will always be in the crosshairs of MPs, senators, MCAs, President, Deputy President and their tenderpreneur friends. So, good people, I was dead wrong; the governor's job is political any time and all the time.

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MY THOUGHTS |

Dominic Wamugunda

Will the war on graft be sustained to the bitter end?



Did I see a news item about a man who was caught trespassing on the Kenyatta home in Gatundu? His name is said to be Said Mire Siyad

suggesting that he is not from that area. Those from that general area would bear names like Njoroge, Kamau, Mbugua, Njuguna and so on. This news brought to my mind a discussion we had the other day.

Some months ago, several of us in the family – I am from Gatundu North – were sitting outside our home enjoying a meal. Then a total stranger passed by hawking some merchandise. He came to us and jovially wanted to sell his products to us. We did not buy anything and he walked away sounding quite pleasant. We asked ourselves how he could be roaming about in the villages and where he could be living, but just left it at that.

Two weeks ago after the Garissa attack, we were sitting somewhere talking about these things with other friends from other villages around Kiambu and Murang'a. The matter of the stranger we had seen around our home came up and it turned out that even the other friends had similar experiences in their villages. We all agreed that there is certainly no problem with any Kenyan being anywhere in Kenya but, in the light of the events that have been taking place in recent times, there is a need to ask a few questions.

Well looked after

Do local administrators know where these fellows come from and how they end up in these villages? Or could it be that such administrators are well looked after and so they do not dare ask questions? If the answer to the second question is yes, and if some of these individuals were to turn out to be dangerous people, isn't that an indication of how corruption and insecurity could be connected?

Talking about corruption, I now see that the National Assembly has acted and caused the chairman and his deputy at the EACC to be suspended. These are signs that the war on corruption is on. Is it really on? Will those concerned really sustain this war to its logical conclusion? Corruption has been going on for so long and is therefore so entrenched in the psyche of government operatives and Kenyans in general that it has almost been accepted as normal.

It is very easy to start off a culture but it is not as easy to shake it off. I believe, however, that the culture of corruption, which has become more or less a way of life in Kenya, can be shaken off with the concerted effort of all.

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OPINION | Bemih Kanyonge

Education regulations are in the child's best interest

Force of law:
Cabinet Secretary issued directives on charging of school fees and gazetted them

Cabinet Secretary for Education recently issued a directive putting a cap on the amount of school fees to be charged by public basic education institutions but failed to have it implemented.

The failure meant schools' boards of management continued running public schools like private enterprises. Further, and sadly, it meant that education was becoming a preserve of the rich.

Many learners were locked out of schools for lack of school fees.

These issues were brought to the fore and the Cabinet Secretary acted. He issued directives on charging of school fees and gazetted them, giving them the force of law.

With the same energy and momentum, the Cabinet Secretary recently published regulations on basic education. This is the reason matters education are back in the news.

But the teachers' unions are up in arms claiming that the Cabinet Secretary was usurping powers of the Teachers' Service Commission.

The regulation gives the Cabinet Secretary the power to revoke the designation of a head of institution on

the ground of impropriety. Legally, only the teachers commission has the mandate to hire and fire teachers. Could it, however, mean that the heads of institution merely lose their positions as accounting officers of the institutions without necessarily ceasing to be teachers?

In my opinion, a change in wording to read that the Cabinet Secretary will recommend a revocation of designation of accounting officer to the Teachers' Service Commission on the ground of impropriety would suffice to cool down the temperatures as it were.

Of course issues of impropriety where head teachers are involved are not exclusively the preserve of the commission.

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A look at the controversial school fees structures at the beginning of the year shows several other costs imposed by the institutions, not just the activity fees.”

The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission can investigate the head of an institution as it is a matter of public interest.

Delegated authority

The commission wants a definition of “head of institution”.

Can any teacher exercise delegated authority of the Cabinet Secretary as an accounting officer?

Considering the fact that the commission defines the head teacher as the “lead educator and administrator”, is it likely to create a conflict when another teacher exercises delegated authority of the minister?

But these regulations are important and necessary. Some of the provisions are, in many ways, radical, almost revolutionary.

For example, Regulation 15 makes it a criminal offence to send away a learner for failing to pay activity fees.

This is a progressive regulation though it claws back on the provisions that expressly prohibit sending a child home for lack of school fees.

Of course this provision considers the fact that the State handles tuition fees for all learners.

However, a look at the controversial school fees structures at the beginning of the year shows several other costs imposed by the institutions, not just the activity fees.

Can learners be sent home for non-payment of, for example, development levy?

The regulations further reiterate the importance of due process and the rule of law. The regulation protects employees hired by the board of management from being dismissed without a fair hearing. In the past, such employees have suffered at the hands of the board of management and head teachers.

Regulations 22-29 expand the provision on provision of special needs education.

A proper implementation would make learning much easier and schools much more conducive for the education of learners with special needs.

Are there demonstrations in which learners could participate in that would be deemed lawful?

The Constitution gives every person the right to assemble and demonstrate ...

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OPINION | George Kegoro

What Uhuru ought to do for a successful final half



Prisoner: While all politicians are usually prisoners of their support groups, there is an unusually high expectation of the President from his core support group

Other than the Garissa terrorist attack, the bungling response to which led to much criticism against his government, the last one month – which marked two years since Jubilee ascended to power – has been good for President Uhuru Kenyatta. He had a good “state of the nation address”, which even drew a standing ovation and which he also used to launch an improbable response to the problem of runaway corruption which has been eating into his young administration.

While the substance of his anti-corruption drive remains suspect, with a dysfunctional anti-corruption commission supposed to be leading from where the President stopped, Mr Kenyatta has, at least, sent a high level message that the freeloading that had come to characterise his young government is no longer tolerable.

He has also used opportunities created in the fight against corruption to clean house, riding himself of Secretary to the Cabinet Francis Kimemia, a carry-over from the Kibaki administration. Kimemia's retirement coincided with that of the Chief of General Staff, General Julius Karangi, meaning that in one week, the President freed himself of two people who were the most prominent manifesta-

tion of the narrow ethnic base of his administration.

The President has filled the resulting vacancies with people regarded as outsiders to Kenya's power axis, a fitting response to the accusations that have dogged his government about lack of inclusivity. The retirement of the two also provides the space for Mr Kenyatta to consolidate himself in power. Karangi's exit, in particular, is good for the President. The general had assumed chaperon duties for the President even before he was sworn in, and had become a visible fixture in Mr Kenyatta's life, leading to concerns about an intolerable militarisation of the country's politics.

The President will also be happy that his recent trip to Kisumu, the seat of opposition politics, went so well. His previous visit to the Luo Nation, in Migori, was incident-filled, as he had to endure heckling from the crowd, in scenes reminiscent of the reception that his own father had been subjected to when he visited Kisumu in 1969. Where the senior Kenyatta was received with stones, his son received a rapturous welcome and validation, at last, from the Luo community.

The recent good fortunes for the President are a contrast with the torrid experiences he had

had in the first two years in office. The case against him before the ICC created anxiety and left him vulnerable. Questions surrounding his election, which the IEBC never properly explained, meant that Jubilee took office under a legitimacy crisis, which it compounded when the President formed a government that was made of his co-ethnics and those of his deputy and largely left out representation from communities that did not support Jubilee in the elections.

Security plan

Even before settling into office, the President was thrown into an unravelling security situation first in the killings in parts of western Kenya, and then the terrorist attack at the Westgate Mall, the first of a number of high-profile, high-fatality attacks of that nature. Each of these attacks severely exposed the lack of a security plan in the government.

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Managing expectations of his core support, which stood with him, while keeping the rest of the country reasonably happy will be a tough balancing act”

However, the President still has issues to worry about.

First, insecurity remains an important problem. The President has to ensure that the Garissa attack was the last one on the country. Secondly, it is difficult to discern substance in his anti-corruption crusade, especially with the commencement of removal proceedings against members of the anti-corruption commission.

Thirdly, his deputy William Ruto still faces charges before the ICC. When and how his case ends could have an impact on the internal condition of the Jubilee Alliance and Kenyan politics in general.

There is a fourth issue, a lot more controversial, that the President has to see as a problem that needs addressing. Even harsh critics see Mr Kenyatta as a decent, warm and modern person that is well above the primordial compulsions that define some of the astonishing decision-making in his government. However, it is clear that he faces significant constraints within his corner, which make him afraid of appearing to be giving in to too much.

While his recent appointments are good for the country, they are still too little, and certainly take nothing away from the image that Jubilee remains largely an ethnic government.

On the other hand, these appointments have already alarmed his supporters into speaking out. The admonition by Central Kenya MPs that the President's newfound inclusivity should not interfere with their share of state jobs, was a public indication of the power relations within the central region of Kenya. The effect of their message was, first, that Mr Kenyatta has a private layer of accountability to them, which precedes his national obligations, and, second, that whatever he does, Mr Kenyatta must remember he is a Kikuyu first, and that he cannot step outside parameters they imposed on him based on that fact.

While all politicians are usually the prisoners of their support groups, there is an unusually high expectation of the President from his core support group. This has to do with the unusual circumstances of his election as President while facing charges before the ICC. Even with his case now behind him, transitioning to a “normal” President will not be easy for him. Managing the expectations of his core support, which stood with him against the ICC, while keeping the rest of the country reasonably happy will be a tough balancing act for Mr Kenyatta.

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OPINION | Peter Kagwanja

‘New racism’ fuelling extremist violence in Africa



Xenophobic attacks: Today two decades after South Africa ascended to democracy, apartheid's long shadow is felt in the form of violence against migrants

The killing last month of Michael Brown, the unarmed black teenager who was shot in cold blood by a white police officer in Missouri, sparked protests as far away as Port Harcourt, Nigeria, and reignited intellectual and political debates on the resurgence of racial and ethnic tensions to haunt democracy globally. In Africa, a new wave of xenophobic attacks against African immigrants in South Africa has sparked fury across the continent. And, in Kenya, the massacre of 148 students of the Garissa University College early this month, seen as part of a string of killings of ‘blacks’ (“nywele ngumu” or kinky hair) by Somali supremacists at the Coast and North-Eastern parts, has also stoked worldwide condemnations.

The resurgence of racism globally is the focus of a special issue of *Foreign Affairs Journal* titled: “The Trouble with Race” (March/April 2015).

Kwame Anthony Appiah, the renowned Ghanaian scholar and author of the classic *In My Father's House* (1993), and more recently “Lines of Descent: W.E.B. Du Bois and the Emergence of Identity” (February 2014), kicks off the debate on the resurgence of racism by citing Du Bois' famous declaration in 1900 during the First Pan-African Conference in London that: “The problem of the 20th

century is the problem of the colour line.”

After a sweeping review of the rise and fall of race as a concept that has underpinned human relations, Prof Appiah concludes that race — and ethnicity — are socially constructed categories by late 19th century scientists (biologists) and intellectuals.

However, absent in Appiah's and other intellectual interventions in the debate on rising racial and ethnic tensions globally is a nuanced appraisal of the dynamics of “new racism” within Africa that is everywhere driving extremist violence and terrorism.

Intellectual discourse

Although the term “new racism” has Western roots, having entered the corridors of intellectual discourses in the early 1980s following the resurgence of rightwing ideologies based on racist public discourse depicting immigrants as a threat, it is deeply rooted in contemporary Africa.

What today are theorised as indigenous “Islamic terrorism” and extremist violence in Africa are essentially racist projects with well calibrated political and economic ends erroneously subsumed under the rubrics of “genocide” and “terrorism”.

Imperial Ethiopia provides the oldest and most apt example of the localised politics of a racial ideology based on the notion of

superiority of Abyssinians over other Africans.

The architects of imperial Ethiopia weaved the idea of Abyssinian superiority around the creation myth that posits that God molded the first humans from clay and in Ethiopia. He put the first batch in an oven to bake, but left them there too long, and they emerged burned and black, so he threw them away to the southern part of Africa. He took the second batch from the oven too soon, and they were pasty and white, so he threw them northward, where they became the Arab and European populations. The third and final batch was just right, and God put them in Ethiopia.

Long before Italy's Benito Mussolini overran Ethiopia and bust the myth of the racial supremacy of the Abyssinians in 1935, an article titled: “The most gifted of Africans” published by the *New York Times* on April 19, 1896, enchanted the Abyssinians as “decidedly a superior race to the other peoples of the Dark Continent” because of “their origin and pedigree.”

However, all this changed.

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Racism may be receding globally but in Africa, its localised politics endures

In exile in London, Emperor Haile Selassie was received and hosted by Africans such as Jomo Kenyatta and Kwame Nkrumah, becoming a convert to pan-Africanism. Addis Ababa is indisputably the capital of pan-Africanism, a galvanising supra-racial idea that all Africans are one race.

Superior vs inferior

But the cost of failure by other Africans to jettison their localised racial bigotry has been dire. As the Ugandan scholar, Mahamoud Mamdani, rightly notes in his book, *When Victims Become Killers* (2001), underlying the 1994 Rwandan genocide was the colonial legacy of racial stereotypes of superior “semitic or Hamitic” Tutsis and inferior Hutu “Negroes”.

Similarly, a “pan-Somali” ideology akin to apartheid is driving the idea of a caliphate in Eastern Africa. Prior to the civil war, Somalia's apartheid targeted the Bantus in southern parts (referred to collectively as Jareer or slaves). It was sustained through social mores that strongly discouraged, censured and punished any kind of sexual contact with the Jareer.

Today, pan-Somali supremacists are stretching the concept of “Jareer” in what is emerging as a racially-driven war of attrition to prevent non-Somalis from acquiring property or settling in the Muslim counties of

Mandera, Wajir, Garissa and Lamu. In this war, the Jareer does not need to commit a crime of any kind, being a Jareer is itself a serious crime!

In northern Mali and the broader Sahel, terrorist groups such as the Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO), a splinter group of al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) that nearly captured the Malian state in 2012, are using the racial language of “white” and “black”, which has specific resonance where the light-skinned Tuareg and Arabs (“whites”) are depicted as superior to the inferior non-Arab southerners (“blacks”).

However, ironically, the wrath of localised racial ideology has been brutal in Sudan's racially mixed and predominantly Muslim Darfur region where notions of superior Arabs and inferior “blacks” underpinned the Janjaweed's pogroms against non-Arab Muslims.

Today, two decades after South Africa ascended to democracy, apartheid's long shadow is felt in the form of xenophobic violence against African immigrants (pejoratively known as makwerekwere) in May 2008 and April 2015. Racism may be receding globally but in Africa, its localised politics endures.

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County by County

NAIROBI: Road authorities launch safety campaign

The National Transport and Safety Authority and the National Road Safety Trust on Thursday launched a road safety campaign aimed at reducing deaths on roads by a third in the next 24 months. Through the campaign, Save 1,000 Lives, the two organisations will mobilise the private sector to create specialised programmes to support road safety initiatives. – **Correspondent**

MACHAKOS: Residents seek different dumping site

Residents of Tala town and its environs are calling on the National Environment Authority and the county government to find a different dumping site for use instead of the one in the town for fear of disease outbreak. They were led by Irene Nduku, the secretary of the local branch of the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry. – **Gastone Valusi**

KWALE: Government to give community policing training

The national government has recruited 160 youths in the county for training on community policing to enhance security at village and county levels. This initiative is being undertaken following an increase in cases of insecurity that are believed to be committed by radicalised youths. – **Farouk Mwabege**

THARAKA-NITHI: Ragwa reshuffles his government

Governor Samuel Ragwa has reshuffled his government. According to a press release from the county government, the affected dockets are Tourism, Culture, Water and Natural Resources, Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Health Services, Education, Youths, Gender, Sports and Social Services, Physical Planning, Lands, ICT and Energy, Public Service, Urban Development and Labour, and the Directorate of Education in charge of Early Childhood Development Education. – **Alex Njeru**



KERICHO: Search on for man who ‘killed’ officer

Police are searching for a boda boda rider who allegedly ran over Kapsoit OCS Samuel Mureithi several times and killed him after he was told to produce his driving licence on Thursday night. Kericho police boss Rose Muchuma (above) confirmed the incident. She said that Mr Mureithi and several junior officers had just asked to see the boda boda rider’s driving licence. – **Timothy Kemei**



WACHIRA MWANGI | NATION
MOMBASA: Passengers enjoy a boda boda ride without helmets along the Likoni-Lungalunga highway.

TURKANA: Tension high after bandits kill man

Tension is high along the Samburu-Turkana border after one man was killed and four others seriously wounded by bandits in Nakron in Sirima, Loiyangalani sub-county. According to police, suspected Turkana morans attacked a lorry and a fleet of five vehicles in the area at 5 p.m on Friday. – **Ken Bett**

LAIKIPIA: Woman Rep calls for urgent security meeting

Woman Representative Jane Apollos yesterday called for an urgent security meeting to address insecurity in parts of the county with many pastoralists. She said all elected Laikipia leaders as well as county commissioners from Baringo and Samburu should come together to seek a lasting solution to the problem. – **Kamau Kariuki**

NAIROBI: Popular QFM host Rynoh Kukuni dead

Popular Radio personality Rynoh Kukuni died a road accident along Mombasa Road yesterday morning. The Nation Media Group journalist was pronounced dead upon arrival at Mater Hospital. Kukuni, 24, was the host of the *Tuliza* show on QFM, and previously a co-host of the *Vuka na Style* show on the same radio station alongside Eunice Waithera. – **Macharia Gachuru**

KAKAMEGA: Minister says county will have sports kitty

The county will create a kitty for training of sports talent, Suleiman Sumba, the County Executive Member for Land, Housing, Urban and Physical Planning, said on Thursday. He stated that the majority of youths in Kakamega are talented in sporting activities but lack training resources. – **John Shilita**

MIGORI: Residents demand overhaul at Kenya Power

Residents are demanding an overhaul of local Kenya Power management over what they say is inefficiency and laxity. They say power outages, voltage surges and low power outputs have become irritating and a setback to growing businesses. – **Elisha Otieno**

TAITA TAVETA: Public service vehicles reduce fares

Public service vehicles have reduced fares. Taita Taveta Matatu Owners Association on Tuesday said that it had cut fares from Voi to Wundanyi, Taveta, Mombasa, Bura and other destinations by 50%. People operating Toyota Probox cars as PSVs resolved to reduce their charges to compete with matatus. – **Lucy Mkanyika**

SIAYA: Health docket to inspect slaughterhouses

The Siaya Health Department says it will inspect slaughterhouses in the county to avert a possible disease outbreak. Alego-Usonga public health officer Odera Wayayi said the exercise will be carried out in units used for slaughtering cattle, sheep, goats and pigs. He stated they will use it to evaluate shortages in slaughterhouses and ensure the facilities are well equipped. – **Nelcon Odhiambo**

BUSIA: 600 homesteads to get cheap electricity

At least 600 homesteads in Butula sub-county will get electricity connection at subsidised rates, Kenya Power managing director Ben Chumo has said. Dr Chumo stated that this is part of a World Bank-funded programme that targets informal settlements and low income areas. – **Linet Wafula**

MARSABIT: Ten-year-old boy charged with rape

A ten-year-old boy was on Friday charged with rape at a local court. The accused is alleged to have committed the act on an eight-year-old girl in Hula Hula on April 19. He pleaded not guilty and was released on a Sh100, 000 bond and a surety of a similar amount. The case will be heard on May 5. – **Ken Bett**

KISUMU: County wants landmark for visitors

Governor Jack Ranguma has called for bids for the establishment of a landmark for visitors. He said the object would act as a symbol for Kisumu and focus on promoting tourism. He asked youths and corporates to present ideas that can be used to design a unique landmark. – **Everline Okewo**

KAKAMEGA: French partner with local university

The French government has partnered with Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology to improve research in engineering, communication and agriculture. Sarah Atiyom, the head of cooperation attaché for higher education at the French Embassy in Nairobi, also said that through the agreement, they will give funds as well as provide research material. – **Benson Amadala**

HOMA BAY: Town residents protest water shortage

Residents of Homa Bay town are protesting ongoing water shortage, which they say was occasioned by a routine checkup by Kenya Power last Thursday. South Nyanza Water Company director Adams Kiro said the power outage has crippled the company’s operations, leading to the shortage. – **Maurice Kaluoch**

NAKURU: Forty to take part in civic education exercise

At least 40 artists will this week take part in a civic education exercise to help them understand the Constitution. Constitution and Reforms Education Consulting communications officer Charity Nzomo said the artists will create poems, plays and music to be presented towards the end of the week-long function. The exercise will be organised by the charity Jukumu Letu Kenya. – **Magdalene Wanja**

NAROK: Tension as govt deploys officers to forest

Tension has gripped Mau Forest settlers after the government deployed a security team of 70 officers to stop encroachment on the forest. According to the settlers’ spokesman William Cheruyiot, people are leaving the forest for fear of police harassment, which they experienced in the past. County Commissioner Athur Osiya warned residents against encroaching on government forests. – **George Sayagie**

NAKURU: Hawker, county officers fights may soon end

Fights between hawkers and county askaris could be a thing of the past if a new law recognising the former’s operation comes into force. Small and Micro Enterprises Authority chief executive Patrick Mwangi said that the SME Act, once operationalised, will enable traders to get a leeway to engage county governments in the establishment of their businesses in strategic locations. – **Bernard Ogembo**



KERICHO: Members looking for resolution support

Members of the Kericho County Assembly have asked MPs from the county to support a resolution by the Senate to increase allocations to county governments by Sh7.7 billion. Leader of majority Daniel Rono (above) and Kapsuser Member of County Assembly John Kauria said counties need more funds so they can provide services to residents. – **Timothy Kemei**

VIHIGA: Governor to launch loan fund for traders

Governor Moses Akaranga will on Thursday launch the Sh100 million Vihiga community fund at Mbale Municipal Grounds. In a memo, Mr Akarang, said the fund will help small-scale traders get soft loans that will be managed by the county’s trade and industrialisation department. – **Derick Luvega**

CONFLICT | Standoff caused by two laws used to create the two bodies

Apply directly, medical college tells students

National placement service sparks row after saying those admitted without its approval would not get loans

BY VINCENT ACHUKA

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Students who sat Form Four final examination last year and wish to join Kenya Medical Training College must apply directly to the institution or they will not be admitted.

The warning comes as the selection of those to join public universities and colleges — conducted by Kenya Universities and Colleges Placement Service — enters its final week.

About 67,124 students are eligible for selection by the agency to a university of their choice.

Another 41,550 will be selected to join any of the government's 50 middle-level colleges.

The standoff between the college and the placement service over who should admit students to the college worsened after the service director Francis Muraguri, said in a letter on April 8 that students joining the college without its approval would not get government loans.

According to college, about 24,000 students apply to join the college each year.

New director Peter Tum, has now faulted Parliament for creating the confusion, which could have a ripple effect on health services as it could cause a delay in admissions.

The college trains up to 80 per cent of medical staff.

Dr Tum said they would not admit any student through the placement service, as they would be breaking the law.

"We are still under the Ministry of Health. The placement service has no business admitting students for us.



SULEIMAN MBATIA | NATION

Successful applicants await admission at a Kenya Medical Training College campus. The college says about 24,000 students apply to join its colleges each year.

Whoever they admit will not be accepted in any of our 42 campuses. There will be no vacancies," he said.

Last year the placement body admitted 3,174 students to study for diplomas in community health nursing, environmental health nursing and clinical

only three of the 18 courses offered.

As a result the college, which admits about 7,000 students a year, said it invited fresh direct applications to fill the deficit.

Furthermore, it accuses Kenya Universities and Colleges Placement Service of only considering students who sat the Form Four exams the previous year, locking out thousands who apply several times to get a chance at the college.

The placement service has dismissed the college's decision to deny admission to students placed by them. "Even universities offering degrees in medicine and pharmacy have submitted themselves to us. Our aim is to do this on a national platform and ensure a fair process. Anyone who refuses this has other intentions," said Mr Muraguri.

Delay in admitting students to the college could disrupt the government's 2012 plan to plug a deficit in health workers.

2012

Year the Kenya Universities and Colleges Placement Service giving it autonomy to select students for all government-run universities and colleges, a function also bestowed on Kenya Medical Training College

cal medicine despite protests from the college. The institution says the admissions failed to satisfy its requirements and that the placement service filled

Four children die after falling into pit

BY BRIAN OCHARO

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AND WACHIRA MWANGI

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Four children died after falling into a 30-foot pit at Falcon area in Mombasa.

The three boys and a girl, aged between seven and 10 years, met their deaths on Friday evening while playing on top of the slab that covered the pit.

A witness, Mr Mwinyi Ramadhan, yesterday told the *Sunday Nation* that he heard screams from a child who survived the tragedy and, when he rushed to the pit, he saw bodies floating.

"It appeared that they had fallen in the pit minutes

before I arrived. It was traumatising," he said.

Residents, with the help of Mombasa County Fire Brigade, pulled out the bodies of two boys and the girl by 5 p.m. The fourth body was retrieved at 9.30 p.m.

It was a double tragedy for the family of Ms Millicent Awuor who lost two children in the tragedy.

"My children had gone out to play when I heard from my neighbour that some children had fallen into the pit. I felt numb," she said. "I looked for them but when a neighbour's child was asked about my children's whereabouts, he told us they had fallen into the pit. My world crumbled," she said.

APs accused of harassing land owners

BY STEPHEN MUTHINI

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More than 3,000 members of a group in Machakos poised to own land formerly belonging to the East African Portland Cement factory in Athi River have complained of harassment by Administration Police.

The Syokimau/Mavoko Community Association said members are often arrested on the property and accused of trespass despite having genuine papers from the East African Portland Cement and from the ministry of Land.

According to documents seen by the *Sunday Nation*, sale of the portion of land LR 8784/4 was approved by the company's board of directors on May 26, 2011.

A letter written by Letangule and Company Advocates



Mavoko MP Patrick Makau

dated March 30, 2013 shows that the group had paid part of the amount for purchase of the parcel of land.

"We hereby enclose a copy of Real Time Gross Transfer being a transfer of the sum of Sh1,200,000 to your account at Chase Bank Ltd being part commitment towards deposit

City MP backed for job of Nairobi governor

BY BILLY MUIRURI

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Central Kenya MPs have rattled the political landscape in Nairobi with an endorsement of Dagoretti South MP Dennis Waweru to run for governor.

The MPs from the Mt Kenya region and who included city TNA MPs, have finally said they will be working with Mr Waweru in his quest for the top seat.

The rare political move came into the fore on Tuesday at the Sarova Panafric Hotel where the MPs held a consultative meeting that culminated in the endorsement of Mr Waweru to face off with Nairobi Senator Mike Mbuvi Sonko.

Part of the bigger agenda was to issue a strongly worded statement to register their support for Deputy President William Ruto in the political crisis that is boiling over in his Rift Valley yard.

But during this meeting, the MPs discussed their region's political future and when the issue of Nairobi County came up, they agreed to support "one of their own" against Mr Sonko.

"We agreed in principle that our interests in the city are very significant and we shall favour a leadership that looks able to stabilise the city's economic situation. We opted for Mr Waweru and not the senator," said Ndaragwa MP Waweru Nderitu.

The Dagoretti South MP was further backed by Meru Senator Kiraitu Murungi to chair the Central Kenya MPs forum and immediately given the mandate to read the joint statement.

Although President Uhuru Kenyatta and Mr Sonko enjoy a very cordial relationship, the President has kept to himself his opinion over Mr Sonko's bid for the city's top seat.

Starehe MP Maina Kamanda has managed to rally the city TNA MPs to consider supporting Mr Waweru's bid and extended this to Central Kenya's colleagues.

"He is offering himself for the seat and as at now, we believe he will be a formidable candidate.



Dagoretti South MP Dennis Waweru

We shall continue holding joint meetings as MPs," Mr Kamanda said yesterday.

Embakasi North MP Mwangi Gakuya backed the endorsement but said its success will only come if former Vice President Kalonzo Musyoka is successfully wooed to join the Jubilee Government.

"Looking at our numbers, we shall require Mr Musyoka on board at the national level so that we can also get into a deal with his community for the top city seats," said Mr Gakuya.

Kiharu MP Irungu Kang'ata and her Thika Town counterpart Alice Ng'ang'a said city politics needed to attract interest of Mt Kenya leaders due to mistakes done in the past.

The new move left former Starehe MP Margaret Wanjiru in some awkward position given that she decamped from ODM expecting a level playing ground in the would-be Jubilee Alliance Party primaries.

Ms Wanjiru has insisted she will take her battle to the people when the right time comes. "I am in the race to the end. We can't stop people from forming groups but the ultimate decision lies with the people," said the former MP through an aide.

However, it has emerged that the MPs' declaration may have resulted from re-energised political activities of Mr Sonko.

1,330

The number of acres a community group has partially bought from East Africa Portland Cement

of the purchase price by our client Syokimau/Mavoko Community Association," the letter reads.

Another letter from the ministry of Land dated January 8, 2013 and signed by Commissioner of Land Z.A. Mabea gives consent for sale of the land.

"As the matter has been duly approved by the board of directors, I have no objection to the said transaction subject to concurrence by the ministry of Industrialisation,"

the letter reads.

Other letters seen by the *Sunday Nation* were written by Mavoko Member of Parliament Patrick Makau and the local District Commissioner confirming that Syokimau/Mavoko Community Association represented the interests of the local community.

But Machakos Administration Police Commander Joseph Keitany says that the group has no legitimate claim to the piece of land. He says the land belongs to the government and his officers went there to maintain law and order and prevent the group from illegally occupying the land.

"The land belongs to East African Portland Cement factory. You cannot do sub-division on government land. You must get consent from the Lands Board," said Mr Keitany.

READING CULTURE | Ms Rita Marsham plans to bring state-of-the-art libraries to schools across the country

From Canada with goodies for schools

A Somali refugee girl who rose to become a law don at Harvard University inspired Ms Marsham to stock libraries in Kenyan schools

BY DAVID MUCHUI

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You can see excitement written all over their faces as they grasp and read storybooks at their new state-of-the-art library.

These are pupils of Lewa Primary School in Buuri subcounty in Meru County. The clean, neatly-arranged and well-stocked room, with an on-line library and an interactive smart board is the talk of the school located within the Lewa Conservancy.

The library is a dream come true for Ms Rita Field-Marsham, who, inspired by a true story of a Somali refugee girl in Kenya, who read books to become a law lecturer at the prestigious Harvard University, decided to set up a library for Lewa primary pupils.

In fact, this is what stirred the passion to avail modern libraries to children in Kenya, not just at Lewa. It was in 2007 when Ms Field-Marsham, a lawyer, realised how powerful books can be in transforming lives, even to the most marginalised Kenyans. In her own words, "I discovered that opening a book can open the world to a child."

Were it not for books, the Somali girl could not have reached that far," she said. Ms Field-Marsham is the Chief Executive Officer of Rita and Charles Field-Marsham Foundation.



Pupils of Lewa Primary School enjoy the comfort of the bean bag cushions in the new library recently. The library was built at a cost of Sh10 million by Rita and Charles Field-Marsham (below) Foundation from Canada.

CHRONOLOGY

How donation of books was started

2007: When the idea to stock libraries in schools in Kenya was born. Donated books to schools in Lamu and Kibera slums.

2012: Stocked Precious Blood Riruta library with e-books and smart boards which make it easy for students to access different material.

2013: Founded Knowledge Empowering Youth (KEY) to scale up her mission to deliver state-

of-the-art, custom-made libraries across the country.

"We believe in the transformative power of language, reading and a well-rounded education. KEY's mission is to drive meaningful change in Africa's vibrant communities by providing their educational systems with fully functioning libraries to ensure that children have the knowledge they need to shape and transform



their own destinies," she states.

Since then, Ms Field-Marsham, who is also the KEY CEO, says the organisation has also established libraries with books to teach communities about the environment. She noted that more than 80 percent of schools in Kenya lack library facilities.

"We provide books to enhance language proficiency. This will lead to better grades.

International students leave after terrorist attack scare

BY DICKSON MWITI

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Eight international medical students have left Maua Methodist Hospital in Meru County following a terrorist attack scare. Four were from Hong Kong University and the other four from Texas University in China and the United States respectively.

Medical officer in charge of the hospital Dr Inoti Murithi told the *Sunday Nation* by phone that the students left after advisories from their respective embassies. He said the first four to leave were from Hongkong University.

"Immediately after the Garissa University College attack, we received a letter from the Chinese Embassy advising us to release their students on grounds of insecurity. We also received a telephone call from the American Embassy which also placed the same request on behalf of their students from Texas University who were the latest to leave," he said.

However, Dr Murithi said the attack was not specific to the Methodist hospital. He said there were leaflets dropped around Maua town indicating that a hospital or a church would be attacked by the Al Shabaab terrorists.

He said they had so far advised their staff to increase vigilance as well as collaborate with other government security machinery to ensure their institution was secure. "We call on our clients to relax as everything was being handled by the security officers in the right manner," he said.

Igembe South police boss Patrick Mbarire said there was no solid information about the attack and the security team was investigating claims that were coming from members of public.

He said enough security officers had been deployed to all institutions to ensure they were secure.

66

We provide books to enhance language proficiency. This will lead to better grades and academic standards that prepare students to become successful citizens in today's globally competitive world"

Rita Field-Marsham

Registrar of Companies to provide details in property row

ABIUD OCHIENG

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The records for a multi-million investment company which the Registrar of Companies has been directed to provide in court could give crucial information necessary to resolve the dispute between a group of elderly men and their children.

Trading under Muguga Investment Company Ltd, the elderly men approached the court challenging their children's decision to dispose of part of their multi-million shilling investment.

"Record of the Registrar of Companies is crucial component in determining the issues. Therefore, the Registrar shall provide the court with certified copies of the entire file for Muguga Investment Com-



PAUL WAWERU | NATION

Pastor Simon Ndung'u Thuo (left) talks to shareholders of Muguga Investment Company outside Milimani High Court after the hearing on Friday in a case where they are challenging their children's decision to dispose part of their multi-million shillings investment.

pany Ltd within seven days from today," High Court Judge Francis Gikonyo directed on Friday. He added that if it becomes necessary, the Registrar will be summoned to appear in court to offer clarification or be cross-examined by the parties.

There are currently orders stopping the sons and Nuni General Trading Company Ltd from taking over the properties, until the dispute is heard and determined.

One of the elderly men, Mr David Njane Ruiyi, had in an affidavit claimed that they learnt with shock that their sons wanted to dispose of some properties without their consent.

The ageing men came together as 34 families in May 1974, and formed Muguga Investment Company Ltd. The company's main business is in real estate tenancy and distribute the rent to shareholders.

LETTER FROM LONDON | Gerry Loughran

Warning on online diet pills after student tragedy



Weighty: Diet and exercise are the methods most people use to tackle obesity, but some resort to diet pills from pharmacies as requiring less effort and discomfort

Student Eloise Parry, 21, from Shrewsbury, UK, swallowed diet pills which she had bought online.

Immediately, she began to feel strange and drove herself to hospital. Doctors found that her metabolism had soared and a toxicology test revealed serious poisoning.

There was no antidote and Eloise was made comfortable with oxygen. Three hours later, she was dead. Diet and exercise are the methods most people use to tackle obesity, but some resort to diet pills from pharmacies as requiring less effort and discomfort.

The ones Eloise bought online are being analysed by police but were thought to contain the highly toxic industrial chemical, dinitrophenol, known as DNP. It is used as a pesticide and even two tablets can cause serious problems. Eloise took eight. Eloise's mother, Fiona, said, "The drugs sent her metabolism sky-high. The doctors tried to cool her down but they were fighting a losing battle."

Chief Inspector Jenny Mattinson said, "Medication bought online is an unknown quantity and pills can be dangerous. DNP is highly toxic and not for humans."

A health expert added, "Excess weight can be a problem but there are many safe and healthy ways to slim down. Self-diagnosis online is not the way to go."

An inquest will be held into Eloise's death.

A quick visit last week to Nairobi to fulfil my duties with the Hilde Back Education Fund, a marvellous charity for poor but clever children: check it out.

Some things, I found, never change, including the scramble for immigration cards and visa application forms at 6 o'clock in the morning when the whole of Europe, it seems, descends on Jomo Kenyatta Airport.

Is there no way these documents can be given out on the airplane, especially the national carrier, before arrival?

Other things which have not changed:

■ Politeness to visitors, including two well-remembered faces breaking into smiles with, "Jambo, Bwana, you are back!" OK, they were old barman rafikis, but none the worse for that.

■ The obsession with politics and sadly, a high degree of cynicism about the powers-that-be, especially post-Garissa.

■ The obsession with English football, Liverpool, Chelsea, Man Utd and Arsenal shirts and badges everywhere. I even met a colleague who supports my own team, and who shared my grief at their hopelessness.

■ The city centre traffic chaos, though the super highway out of the city is a super-plus once you reach it.

“

I didn't see any fat Kenyan during my recent trip; so diet pills are obviously not something the country is going to worry about,”

■ The fecundity of the rural areas — bananas, tea, coffee, green beans — and the sheer juiciness of those Thika pine-apples!

■ The endless security checks, not just travelling but all around town, entering restaurants, malls, shops, hotels, office blocks. I got scanned so many times I think I'm radioactive.

■ One change for the better was to see very many of those massive, ugly, environment-defacing billboards standing empty of ads.

I doubt if this reflects a new concern for the city surroundings, more like an economic factor. But if they are redundant, why not chop them down and sell them for scrap?

Every time I go to Kenya, I learn something new. In this case, thanks to the Hilton Hotel, I got to know what a Moisture Infusion Facial Bar is. Soap!

NB: I didn't see any fat Kenyans during my trip. Diet pills are obviously not something the country is going to worry

about.

A boy was waiting outside the supermarket for his mother when a man came up. "Can you tell me where the Post Office is?" he asked.

"Sure," the boy said, "two blocks down on the left-hand side."

"Thank you," the man said. "I'm the new pastor here and if you come to my church on Sunday, I will show you the way to Heaven."

"I don't think so," the boy said, "you don't even know the way to the Post Office."

An atheist was out fishing on the lake when suddenly the Loch Ness monster reared up and grabbed him.

"Oh God, help me," the atheist cried.

A voice from on high boomed, "Half an hour ago you didn't believe in me and now you want me to help you."

Atheist: "Half an hour ago I didn't believe in the Loch Ness monster either."

A young man fainted outside a liquor store and an anxious crowd gathered round.

"Give him some milk; that might help," a woman said.

The young man opened his eyes: "If I needed milk, I would have fainted outside the dairy," he said.

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OPINION |
Twalib Mbarak

Sharp-tongued Nkaiserry is setting himself up for failure



Few public service careers take off as hopelessly as that of Joseph Nkaiserry's stint in Cabinet.

Whatever he does, fate has already conspired to ensure that Mr Nkaiserry will forever be remembered as the Interior Cabinet

Secretary on whose watch 147 helpless young Kenyans were slaughtered by terrorists while the security forces did little to save their lives. It seems rather harsh that the retired major-general — only four months in office at the time of the April 22 Garissa University College attack — has to shoulder the political blame for a security cock-up for which he was probably let down by his juniors.

It can't have been all Mr Nkaiserry's fault, for instance, that he and the Inspector-General of Police took the flight to Garissa, where they would be virtually rendered bystanders, while Recce Squad commandos waited for hours to catch transport to the scene of attack. And, privately the minister was perhaps shocked, like the rest of us, at reports that the Kenya Police Airwing boss might have prioritised his relatives' comfort over official duty in scheduling the use of the police aircraft that day.

But Mr Nkaiserry has himself tended to set himself up for failure defending the indefensible, being overly irritable or having his foot in the mouth. Last week, he sought to keep a straight face defending the brutes in police uniform who assaulted journalists out to investigate the detention of heads of cattle on a government ranch in Tana River for rent-seeking.

The ongoing shake-up of the North Eastern regional police and administration command challenges the wisdom of the minister's initial public declaration of confidence in the security response to the Garissa attack despite the obvious signs of negligence captured by the horror of a student who was reportedly on the phone with her family for seven hours until a terrorist's bullet cut her life short.

His dismissive response to journalists' questions betrayed the arrogance of a man who believes he can dodge public accountability by force of brawn. It is not just the opinions of journalists that Mr Nkaiserry has little respect for though.

Two weeks before the Garissa massacre, the Manderia Governor, Ali Roba found himself on the receiving end of the Interior minister's sharp tongue after the former criticised the government's response to insecurity in his county and the performance of the county commissioner.

In addition to dismissing the governor as "no more special than any other Kenyan", Mr Nkaiserry described the performance of the county commissioner whose abilities most local leaders have questioned as "above reproach".

Never mind that Governor Roba has had six attempts on his life, some incidents involving terrorist bombings that claimed the lives of people in his convoy. Mr Nkaiserry probably relishes the small victories in the verbal fights he picks here and there.

But his Cabinet career also seems to be one gaffe away from danger.

Otieno Otieno is chief sub-editor, Business Daily. jkotieno@ke.nationmedia.com. @otienootieno

BAROMETER | Lukoye Atwoli

Health crisis in counties cannot be whitewashed



Paradox: As the governors were showing off the ambulances they have bought, many health workers were on strike or had quit to seek greener pastures

This past week, the Kenya Medical Association held the 43rd Annual Scientific Conference and annual general meeting in Eldoret.

The theme was "Towards effective e-health in Kenya", and all those attending the meeting agreed that technology has inevitably intruded into the doctor's consulting room and the invasion can only get more pervasive with time.

Innovations integrating technology into health care and research were discussed, and one can only conclude that in this respect, Kenya is poised to take a leading position on the continent.

Interestingly, the meeting was held at the same time as governors were meeting in Kisumu to take stock of the challenges and successes they have seen since taking power two years ago.

While most of them extolled their overall successes, a few voices could be heard raising the red flag with regard to the health sector. It is generally agreed that with devolved government, a lot of improvements have been seen in many

sectors, including some quick wins in the county health services.

However, it is difficult to completely whitewash the crisis in the sector. During the medical association meeting, members expressed misgivings about the management of human resources for health across the country.

It is no secret that a large number of counties have had crisis after crisis in the health sector since the inception of county governments. Even as the governors were thumping their chests and showing off the ambulances they have bought and health equipment they have installed, health workers in their counties were on strike or had quit to seek better working conditions elsewhere.

“

Every day this crisis persists is the result of the choice we make, to listen to politicians and ignore professionals,”

A local news feature placed the whole issue in context, showing a secondary school drop-out running a health facility in one of the counties. The county health administration was quoted as indicating that the young man's work was satisfactory, and any problems would already have been picked up by the system. In my view, that is the key problem in the management of human resources for health.

Political leaders have adopted an arrogant stance towards health workers, threatening and belittling them, and then expecting them to grin and bear it, and continue delivering quality health services.

In the beginning, county health workers were ethnically profiled and encouraged to seek employment in their home counties. Those that chose to remain and continue serving Kenyans "away from home" faced discrimination, abuse and poor career progression.

The consensus among health workers is that something seriously needs to be done. We

must stop using the lives of Kenyans as bargaining chips in a game of political one-upmanship.

Our politicians must be constantly reminded that a life lost due to mismanagement of the health sector cannot be recovered, and many lives are indeed being lost.

They must get off their high horse and engage health policy experts and professionals in generating solutions that place the health and well-being of people above all else.

The experts have argued that scarce human resources for health should be managed and distributed nationally, while politicians and their praise-singers have insisted on perpetuating the current confusion in the sector.

Every single day this crisis persists is the result of the continuous choice we make, to listen to politicians and demagogues and ignore the professionals.

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BUSINESS



WHY DO WE CLAP FOR SWINDLERS?
No society advances by promoting deception at the expense of real skills and hard endeavour. **P.34**

TURN-AROUND | Smart meters will be linked to a server and will communicate directly to the firm

Switch to pre-paid meters sparks a rethink for Kenya Power bosses

Company to move six-year-old system to rural households while upgrading urban consumers to new tamper-proof smart kits

BY VINCENT ACHUKA
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The failure of the much-touted pre-pay billing method to minimise consumer default, six years after it was launched, may have forced Kenya Power to rethink its payment strategy.

When pre-paid meters were introduced in 2009 to great fanfare, the electricity distribution firm said the gadgets would eliminate the risk of non-payment as customers would pay before consuming electricity. and eventually the system would eliminate the need for meter readers, it was said.

Indeed, their installation appeared to show promise, with unpaid bills dropping from Sh10 billion in 2010 to Sh8 billion in 2012.

Motivated by the back-to-back three-year drop in unpaid bills, the company, at the release of its financial results in June 2012, said it would completely phase out post-paid meters by this year.

“The company aims to install 500,000 meters by 2013 and to complete it by 2015,” it said in its 2012 annual financial report.

By then it had installed 164,117 pre-pay meters, representing 8 per cent of its 2.03 million customers.

It told its shareholders that it would cost Sh13 billion to move all consumers to the pre-paid system by this year.

Though expensive, said the company’s then CEO, Mr Joseph Njoroge, the move was the best shot the company had in minimising unpaid bills.

But last Friday, the firm made an about-face on the pre-paid metering system, coming up with new measures to reduce its now ballooning unpaid bills. In its new plan, pre-paid meters would be relegated to rural areas,



Flashback: Former Kenya Power MD Joseph Njoroge (right) with then Actaris CEO Christophe Viarnaud display a digital pre-paid electricity meter in 2009. Figures from the company’s March debt collection sheet shows a number of its customers on the pre-pay system could be tampering with meters.

with the expected introduction of smart meters to curb electricity fraud and soaring meter reading costs — the very reasons prepaid meters were introduced.

“On a single street, it costs Sh2,000 to send a meter reader on a motorcycle per day,” the

company’s managing director, Mr Ben Chumo, told the *Sunday Nation*.

“Smart meters will be linked to a central server and will always be communicating directly to us as the customer consumes electricity. So we will have ac-

curate meter readings for every consumer at all times, eliminating the need to send meter readers,” he said.

Mr Chumo said the company had no problem with revenue collection; its main challenge is meter reading. For this reason, 500 college students would be hired as interns to work part-time as meter readers during school holidays to supplement the 722 staff hired by the company for this purpose.

According to the company’s customer billing sheet seen by the *Sunday Nation* for March, the number of customers using prepaid meters had risen to 925,133 by last month from 164,117 in 2012.

The amount of unpaid bills had also risen from Sh8 billion in 2012, to Sh9 billion in 2013. When announcing its financial results in June last year, the country’s only electricity distributor said it was owed Sh14 billion in unpaid bills. “We are

ELECTRICITY THEFT

Illegal tampering mainly to blame

■ A common way of bypassing the pre-paid meter — according to an electrician who has done several bypasses for consumers at a fee — is connecting high power consuming devices directly to an alternative tap to the mains.

■ In Nigeria, Ikeja Electricity Distribution Company had to discontinue the pre-paid system last year on realising that 32 per cent of its prepaid meters had been tampered with by consumers.



Mr Ben Chumo, CEO

■ Some 5,000 consumers from Runda, Kariobangi and Nairobi central business district are targeted for the first phase of installation of smart meters, at a cost of Sh2.5 billion.

Only 3 p.c. of homes in three counties have electricity

BY DAVE OPIYO
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Turkana, Tana River, Mandera and West Pokot are among counties with the lowest number of households connected to the power grid, a new survey reveals.

The County Electrification Status reveals that in Turkana County only two per cent of its 142,864 households have access to electricity.

This means that only a paltry 2,617 homes were connected to the power grid. The county has a population of about 992,001.

The situation was equally bad in Tana River County, where only 1,639 of 54,986 homes had access to electricity — about three per cent.

In Mandera County, only 4,131 of 145,538 homes had electricity. The statistics indicate the county has a population of about 1,189,562.

The research was done by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, while the findings were presented by Kenya Power managing director Ben Chumo at the Devolution Conference in Kisumu this week.

Other counties identified as having very few homes with power include Migori, Narok, Homa Bay and Samburu (6 per cent); Wajir and Bomet (7 per cent); Kitui (8 per cent); while Kakamega and Marsabit both had 9 per cent.

Overall, 3,236,987 of 10,168,139 households in the country have electricity, representing a 37-per cent coverage.

The results of the survey came five days after the government revealed an ambitious plan that could see the cost of connecting Kenyans to electricity decline drastically in the next two months. Speaking in Kisii County on last Sunday, Deputy President William Ruto told of a plan to reduce the initial charges from the current Sh35,000 to Sh15,000 to light up more homes and businesses.

“Gone are the days when electricity used to be connected on a who-you-know basis. Earlier, people used to pay Sh70,000 to be connected to the national grid. It then moved to Sh35,000 but this is still expensive to our people,” he said on Monday.

He said by June this year all public primary and secondary schools will have been connected to the national grid.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 35

Sh14bn

Amount of unpaid bills the company was grappling with by last June.

This week’s indicators

MARKET PERFORMANCE

Points	NSE20	Index
Close	5061.09	1
Week’s change:	Down 31.91 points	

TOP GAINERS

	Price	%
Eveready EA	4.50	11.11
Unga Group	50.00	11.11
Crown Paints	110.0	8.91

BIGGEST LOSERS

	Price	%
Kapchorwa Tea	125.00	-11.35
British-American	22.50	-10.89
Trans-Century	16.10	-9.30

TOP TRADERS

	Price(sh)	Shares(m)
Safaricom	17.30	37m
Equity Group	49.50	14m
KCB	63.00	10m

MARKET TURNOVER

	Friday	Prev
Equity:	3.0 billion;	3.1 billion
Bond:	7.6 billion;	4.6 billion

MACRO INDICATORS

Interest rates: Latest(%)		
91-day	8.406%	30/04/2015
182-day	10.272%	30/04/2015

Compiled by Joshua Masinde

FAST FOOD | Rise in cash-rich consumers, real estate and infrastructure projects key attractions

Supply hitches curb appetites of global food giants

Product traceability, quality and quantity the main challenges facing food giants seeking to set up Kenyan franchises

BY VINCENT ACHUKA
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The inability of Kenyan farmers to meet stringent demands set by international companies looking to set up food business in the country is preventing them from opening more restaurants.

Attracted by the rise in cash-rich consumers, fast development in real estate and massive investment in infrastructure due to the country's developing economy number of global food giants are eager to set up business in Kenya.

So far, Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC), Subway, Ocean Basket, Cold Stone, Domino's, Naked Pizza and Spurs are the major food firms with outlets in the country.

McDonalds has declared interest in establishing outlets, but it has not given a date.

Other food giants like Pizza Hut, Starbucks, Burger King, Wendy's and Taco Bell have not talked about entering the local market although they operate in several countries in Asia and South America whose GDPs are lower than Kenya's.

However, international food chains, most of which are American, insist on product traceability from all their suppliers, according to KFC's country general manager Justin Melvin.

"Nairobi is ready and it has been for a number of years now," he said.

"The only problem is the difficulty of tracing the supply chain. This adds to the cost of running a food chain since everyone wants to lower their operation costs as the quality is non-negotiable. This is preventing many franchises from coming in," he said.

At its restaurant on Limuru Road in Parklands, Paneer Zinger burger is one of the fastest moving vegetarian products for KFC, owing to a high concentration of South Asians in

the area.

Introduced to the market in April last year, the food item is made of a double-layered paneer cheese patty, creamy sauce and topped with lettuce before being encased in a sesame bun.

But it has only been available for slightly more than a month, reportedly because there were no local producers who could satisfy the quantities and high quality demanded.

"KFC demands all suppliers to adhere to international standards. The standard, taste and quality of any meal that you eat here is the same one that you will get at a KFC in New York or New Delhi," says Mr Melvin.

"If the quality of supplies that we need for a particular meal does not meet the standards set by our parent company, we would be forced to import, or to withdraw the meal from our menu for that territory," he says.

Passed by the US Congress in 2010, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Food Safety Modernisation Act requires all players in the country's food supply chain to be able to quickly trace the origin of a product and its recipient/consumer.

Identify source of disease

The "one-step-forward, one-step-back" traceability requirement is designed to make it easier for FDA to identify the source of an outbreak of food-borne disease, trace its path and swiftly remove it from the food supply," says the Act.

According to the Act, every batch of a food product from a supplier should be checked by a sensory panel and a score allotted. Only a product with a minimum score is shipped out. Other measures include random checks at food outlets by FDA officials.

“

The main problem is the difficulty of tracing the supply chain, which adds to the cost of running an international food chain,"

Justin Melvin, KFC country boss



FILE | NATION

A KFC outlet on Limuru Road, Nairobi. A number of global food giants are yearning to set up business in Kenya but are held back by the inability of Kenyan farmers to satisfy stringent supply demands.

Lastly, samples of products are shipped to FDA labs from time to time for evaluation. Contrary to the local hospitality industry's practise, the supplier's job does not end with the product leaving its premises but with a customer consuming it. The responsibility of qualitative assurance lies with suppliers.

Another Act, The Bioterrorism Act of 2002, passed as a reaction to the 2001 US terror attack, has similar provisions to prevent and minimise impacts of food poisoning.

Because of this, the Kenyan KFC imports 37 per cent of its food supplies. These include potatoes — pre-blanching from Keizer Potato products in Egypt — and cheese from South Africa. The potatoes are precooked and frozen before shipping.

A similar challenge awaits McDonalds when it brings its world famous Big Mac burgers to Nairobi.

According to several news sources,



Power firm to phase out pre-paid meters over losses

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 34

not losing. Debt can accumulate so we are not insinuating that there is something wrong between us and our customers," said the firm's CEO. "Our tariffs are regulated so if there are any efficiencies, they must be dealt with internally."

But scrutiny of the company's debt collection sheet for March reveals glaring inefficiencies in the prepaid meter system — which the company is thought to be silently dumping despite the massive financial investment.

Of its 3.17 million customers, 2.9 million are domestic consumers (91

per cent of total consumers). Of these, 1.6 million are on the postpaid metering system while 925,000 are on the pre-paid metering system.

In March, the company made Sh2.8 billion from postpaid customers, who cumulatively consumed 160,558 GigaWatt hours (GWhrs) of electricity. From prepaid customers — who cumulatively consumed 40,047 GWhrs — it made Sh0.7 billion.

Using March figures, this would mean one post-paid domestic customer consumed 12 GWhrs of electricity and on average paid Sh1,432.

And each prepaid customer consumed an average 23 GWhrs and

paid roughly Sh756 to the power company.

This raises questions of how prepaid customers, who consumed almost twice as much electricity per customer, ended up paying almost half what the postpaid customers paid on average to Kenya Power.

Figures from the company's March debt collection sheet show a number of its customers on the pre-pay system could be tampering with meters, leading to these discrepancies.

"We do not want to go out there and say our customers are tampering with meters because we respect them," said Mr Chumo.

"We have certain challenges and we are old enough to accept when we have them."

Signs that customers were losing faith in the prepaid metering system were first noticed in January last year when Mr Chumo, who had just been appointed, announced they were discontinuing the system in urban areas.

Traditionally, the company releases its financial results in June. With slightly over a month remaining, it remains to be seen whether the new initiatives will help it lower its huge unpaid bills backlog on time.

Pipeline pumps tender case pushed to May

BY MAZERA NDURYA
mndurya@ke.nationmedia.com

The fate of a case in which a company wants a court order stopping Kenya Pipeline Company from awarding a multi-million contract to supply pumps will have to wait until next month for a ruling.

Justice Fred Ochieng' of the Commercial Court will rule on May 5 whether to grant the orders sought by Ruhrpumpen Global Ltd after the firm filed what it termed fresh evidence on the matter.

The company, through lawyer Paul Muite, said the preliminary objections being sought by KPC and Zakheem International did not meet the legal threshold to

“

Kenya Pipeline Company declined our bid to supply pumps because we were not on the list of approved manufacturers,"
Ruhrpumpen Global Ltd

stop them from demanding that an injunction be granted.

Mr Muite said the orders were necessary to stop the pipeline's managing director from foreclosing a contract and shutting out Ruhrpumpen before the matter is heard and determined.

But in their preliminary objections to the suit, KPC and Zakheem want a case filed by Ruhrpumpen dismissed, saying it is an abuse of the court process.

Zakheem's lawyer Mwaniki Gachoka, and his KPC counterpart Kennedy Ogeto, said the aggrieved company had presented no new evidence, noting that what were purported to be fresh facts were already in the court domain.

They asked the court not to issue the orders sought by Ruhrpumpen, arguing that the matter had already been disposed of and was awaiting a ruling set for May 5, 2015. "Nothing has changed in the application that can warrant an injunction other than the change in lawyers representing the company," said Mr Gichuki.

Mr Ogeto, in his objection, said the court lacks jurisdiction to entertain such an application at this time.

The state corporation and Zakheem were responding to a petition filed by Ruhrpumpen Global Ltd that has accused the KPC managing director of inducing Zakheem International, which was awarded the multi-billion-shilling tender, to break a deal between two competing firms.

According to Ruhrpumpen, KPC's managing director had declined their bid to supply booster and mainline pumps because they were not on the list of approved manufacturers for the company.

The matter was first presented before High Court Judge Francis Gikonyo who certified it as urgent and directed that the case be heard on March 5, 2015 inter parties.

SUNNY DAY | Sunny Bindra

What madness makes us clap for swindlers?



Value system:

No society advances by promoting deception at the expense of real skills and hard endeavour. If we keep clapping for the worst amongst us, we will collapse by sidelining the best of us

Sometimes I wonder: Is there something put in Kenyans' drinking water that makes so many of us mad?

This thought occurred to me as I watched a so-called "pastor" invited to a high-ratings show. Nothing wrong with that, you might say. Except that this man of the cloth, ahem, was recently exposed as being no better than a two-bit conman taking advantage of ignorant people to enrich himself.

If it was not enough that he was given a prime-time pulpit despite his public shaming, he was being whooped and applauded by an enthusiastic audience. Why? From the discourse on social media that followed, apparently because he is just a "clever businessman" using his initiative. And because even if he's a crook, it's apparently entertaining to listen to these people.

Are our lives truly so barren that we seek entertainment in the antics of those who denude others? We have been like this for a while. Those who do this on an even larger scale — who engage in looting writ large — are also extolled and applauded. They are followed and envied. As they strut around in their misbegotten limousines and ill-acquired trappings, they bask in the hero-worship of limp minds.

Why do we never see the victims? The pastors who steal the "seed money" of poor people

under false pretences take their children's school fees and their parents' medicines. The powerful individuals who stole the nation's defence and policing budgets a decade ago are single-handedly responsible for the insecurity crisis we now find ourselves in the grip of. Those who orchestrated corrupt driver-licensing for a generation are responsible for the vast majority of road carnage victims today.

What insanity makes us clap for these people?

When you applaud a thief, you reveal many things. First, that you would be the thief yourself, happily and enthusiastically, if only the opportunity came your

way. Second, that your only ambition in life is to hang around those feasting in the hope that a few crumbs may land on the floor where you sit.

When a college was recently exposed in another investigation for awarding fake certifications, its students thought it sensible to go and stone the offices and staff of the media house that ran the exposé.

Rather than direct their anger against those who award fraudulent qualifications, they thought it appropriate to attack those who exposed the rot. Rationale? That the reporters were ruining their chances of future success.

May I quietly point out that

if your future hinges on fake qualifications, then your future looks dim indeed. And the fact that you resort to stone-throwing so quickly confirms this most aptly.

Why have we arrived at this place of collective madness? Because bad behaviour stopped having consequences. Fakers, frauds, looters, rapists and con-men simply get away with it. They are almost never charged, and when they are charged they are mostly acquitted. Justice is dodged using the proceeds of crime.

And so, we have raised a generation that has watched the practitioners of corruption and deceit not only getting away with it, but becoming the bigwigs and celebrities of society. That is the madness ingredient in our water: The self-instilled chemical that induces us to believe in the delusion of short-cuts to success.

It doesn't work, people. No society advances by promoting deception at the expense of real skills and hard endeavour. If we keep clapping for the worst amongst us, we will collapse by sidelining the best of us.

Only two things will cure us: Resolute individuals who refuse to join the adoring hordes and stick to the right path; and a government that finally finds its spine and punishes the few who impoverish the many.

Meanwhile, the applauding of swindlers by oafs continues.

www.sunwords.com



A man mourns his relative who died after terror attacks in Garissa. It's thanks to swindlers that we experience insecurity and terror threats.

TECHNOLOGY | Sam Wambugu

Want to survive on the web? Be mobile-friendly



Reasons:

Many factors cause websites to fail the test, including text that is too small to read and links that are too close together

It's not news that Google is driving the mobile revolution. Google is the world's largest mobile platform provider through Android platform. It is the world's largest mobile search provider. It has the largest mobile app store. In other words, Google calls the shots when it comes to mobile and web.

Google isn't stopping here. It has rolled out the most significant mobile algorithm change. It wants all websites to be mobile friendly. "Mobile-friendly" means that your website renders nicely on a mobile device.

The new search results will highly favour sites offering quick loading time, optimisation for scrolling through information, and sites whose buttons and interfaces work well on smaller screens. This change took effect on last week, Tuesday April 21.

Why is that important? Customers decide what to buy, when, and from where — right on their smartphones. Without a mobile-friendly website, people searching for your products and services on smartphones and other mobile devices won't find you as easily on Google.

The implications of this shift reach far and wide, as mobile friendly sites will receive preferential treatment over desk-

top-only sites. This could have a vast effect if businesses cannot be easily found if searched from a mobile device.

The search engine won't block or remove your site for not being optimised for mobile search but you'll have fewer views, which could translate to sales because mobile searchers won't be able to find you as easily. Sites that aren't mobile-friendly will rank lower in search results than if



If your website is not mobile-friendly, then know that the train has left the station and you'll have to play catch up"

they were mobile optimised.

To check if your website is mobile-friendly, you could use Mobile Friendly Test tool found at <https://www.google.com/webmasters/tools/mobile-friendly/>. Another method of checking your site is to search for it on your mobile device. If the entry bears the "mobile friendly" label, then you're in Google's good graces.

We tested several websites in Kenya for mobile-friendliness. Some of those that passed the test include State House, Olx, Jumia, Kenyatta University, Nairobi County, Nairobi Stock Exchange, majority of the banks, Kenya Airways and websites of most media houses, making them easily searchable and readable of mobile devices.

Among the websites that failed the test include the Parliament, University of Nairobi, Kenya Revenue Authority and Kenya National Examinations Council. The ODM website is mobile optimised but it was not possible to test the National Alliance Party website as it was down.

Factors causing websites to fail the test include text that is too small to read, a mobile viewport that is not set, content that is wider than the screen, and links that are too close together.

The announcement that Google has changed the search algorithm has triggered the kind of mad scramble reminiscent of the run-up to the Y2K in the 1990s across the world.

In 2012, Google made changes aimed at weeding out misleading websites. Because of the uproar this move created, Google this time tried to soften the blow. It announced the plans more than two months ago and posted a step-by-step guide for developers to upgrade their site in time. Not all website owners heeded the warning.

You can still make changes and see improvements to make your website compliant — but depending on the nature of your business, your competition may already be more visible than you on the search engine.

Making your site mobile-friendly is necessary in the present for many reasons, and it's a good long-term investment even if it doesn't affect your short-term traffic. Everything is going mobile; if your website is not mobile-friendly, then know the train has left the station and you will have to play catch up.

Sam Wambugu is a monitoring and evaluation specialist. Samwambugu@gmail.com

ECONOMY | Marsabit

County bets on cultural festival to spur tourism

BY KEN BETT

Culture enthusiasts converge on Marsabit county from May 29 to May 31 for this year's Marsabit-Lake Turkana cultural festival.

The county's tourism, culture and social development executive Galmo Boru Halakhe said they were committed to supporting the event to revive tourism.

The festival, in its eighth edition, was initiated by local communities. It is currently supported by the German Embassy and the county government.

About 500 people are expected to take part in the festival, which will take place in Loiyangalani.

Addressing challenges

Ms Halakhe said they were working on ways of addressing challenges that dogged last year's festival. She said a number of companies had expressed interest to provide goods and services.

"We faced a lot of challenges last year, especially regarding accommodation and catering, but we hope to do better this time," she said.

She added that the county plans to improve the site by building sheds and planting indigenous trees.



We faced many challenges last year, especially regarding accommodation and catering, but we hope to do better this time,"

Ms Galmo Boru Halakhe, Tourism and Culture official

The county has been going through tough times due to insecurity, she noted, adding that the situation had now improved.

"We hope to exploit the event to market our county, which has great potential for tourism", she said.

She noted that Marsabit has a rich diverse culture of 14 different groups. It also has parks, craters, forests and the only desert in East Africa — Chalbi desert — besides the distinct beauty of bare land, oasis and springs.

Miss Tourism fete

She said they would market culture through a Miss Tourism contest, as well as cultural festivals at sub-county levels.

The local Chamber of Commerce and Industry chairman Jack Elisha said the festival would boost the economy by attracting investors and tourists.

Several hotels are already coming up in Loiyangalani as a sign of booming business in the town, he said.

Ms Halakhe said she would strive to ensure that festivals are organised every month to boost trade and tourism and enhance interaction of residents.



PUBLIC TENDERS

NATIONAL

Kenya Bureau of Standards

Supply and delivery of office furniture
Managing Director, PO Box 54974, Nairobi 00200
Deadline: 5/5/2017

National Biosafety Authority

Provision of staff medical insurance cover for financial year 2015/2016
Deadline: 30/4/2015

More information: www.biosafetykenya.go.ke

Kenya National Highways Authority

Construction of Type E flats at Kasarani Police Station
Pre-tender site visit: 17/4/2015
Deadline: 30/4/2015

Reserved for contractors in NCA categories 1, 2 and 3

Ministry of Land, Housing and Urban Development

Consultancy for supervision of construction works in informal settlements in Kisumu and Kericho counties (one contract)

Deposit application documents in tender box on sixth floor, Ardhi House, Nairobi, or send to kisipproject@gmail.com

Deadline: 12/5/2015

Lake Victoria South Water Services Board (LVWSB)

Supply and delivery of seven tractors
Deposit application documents in reception, first floor, LVWSB office, Lavictors House, off Ring Road Milimani, Kisumu
Deadline: 21/5/2015

Ministry of Energy and Petroleum

Consultancy for Kenya Petroleum Technical Assistance Project – reformulation, capacity building and project management

Additional information: Principal Secretary, Nyayo House, Kenyatta Avenue, PO Box 30582, Nairobi 00100, 202240910 (fax)

Deadline: 1/5/2015

Kenya Bureau of Standards

Drainage works
Managing Director, PO Box 54974, Nairobi 00200
Deadline: 5/5/2017

Public Procurement Oversight Authority

Prequalification of suppliers (supply and delivery of computers, servers, laptops, printers, scanners and other related ICT equipment)

Deadline: 4/5/2015

Reserved for youths, women and persons with disabilities

More information: www.tenders.go.ke

ICT Authority

Enhancing communication and awareness of Ifmis implementation in national and county governments
TCIP Programme Manager, Kenya Transparency & Communications Infrastructure Project, ICT Authority, 12th floor, Teleposta Towers, Kenyatta Avenue, PO Box 27150, Nairobi 00100 – deposit in tender box on 12th Avenue entrance or send to procurement@ict.go.ke

Deadline: 4/5/2015

Kenya Maritime Authority (KMA)

Provision of bulk digitisation services, workflow management and EDMS integration with Navision ERP
Deposit application documents in tender box at reception, KMA headquarters
Deadline: 28/4/2015

Youths, women and persons with disabilities encouraged to apply

National Biosafety Authority

Provision of web hosting and Internet connectivity for financial year 2015/2016
Deadline: 30/4/2015

More information: www.biosafetykenya.go.ke

Kenya Railways (KR)

Selling advertisement space in Nairobi commuter railway stations (Nairobi, Syokimau, Imara Daima and Makadara) and commuter passenger coaches on behalf of KR

Managing Director, PO Box 30121, Nairobi 00100 – take to Business Division, KR headquarters, first floor, Block C
Deadline: 1/5/2015

Kenya Tourism Board

Website development
Deadline: 1/6/2015

More information: www.magicalkenya.com/tenders

National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPB)

Supply and delivery of long-sleeved tee shirts and wide brim hats (for persons with albinism)
Executive Director – deposit in tender box at reception, NCPB office
Deadline: 30/4/2015

National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPB)

Supply and delivery of moisturizing and therapeutic sunscreen lotions (for persons with albinism – adult protection a children protection)

Executive Director – deposit in tender box at reception, NCPB office

Deadline: 30/4/2015

Kenya Trade Network Agency (Kentrade)

Provision of payment gateway services for Kenya National Electronic Single Window System

Chief Executive Officer, Embankment Plaza, Upper Hill, PO Box 36943, Nairobi 00200; or deposit in tender box in KenTrade office, first floor, Embankment Plaza

Deadline: 4/5/2015

Kenya Bureau of Standards

Disposal of obsolete and serviceable stores
Managing Director, PO Box 54974, Nairobi 00200
Deadline: 5/5/2017

Geothermal Development Company

Supply of stationery

Ag. Managing Director and CEO, PO Box 100746, Nairobi 00101 – deposit in tender box on ground floor, Kawi House, Red Cross Road, off Mombasa Road, South C

Deadline: 6/6/2017

Reserved for youths, women and persons with disabilities

Kenya Technical Teachers College

Supply of vegetables and fruits

Chief Principal, PO Box 44600, Nairobi 00100 – deposit in tender box at information desk, administration block

Deadline: 30/4/2015

Reserved for youths, women and persons with disabilities

Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis

Prequalification of suppliers and service providers for financial years 2015/16 and 2016/17

Executive Director, second floor, Bishops Gardens Towers, Bishops Road, PO Box 56445, Nairobi 00200 – deposit in tender box at reception, fifth floor

Deadline: 7/5/2015

Public Service Commission

Valuation of extent to which public service has complied with values and principles mentioned in Article 10 and Article 232 of the Constitution

Secretary, PO Box 30095, Nairobi 00100; or deposit in tender box at main entrance, Commission House
Deadline: 29/4/2015

Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, State Department of Livestock, Regional Pastoral Livelihoods Resilience Project

Consultancy firm selection (preparation of environmental and social impact assessment for abattoir and association facilities in Segel, Marsabit county)

Project Team Leader/Coordinator, PO Box 34188, Nairobi 00100 – deposit in tender box next to Room 1006, tenth floor, Ministry building

Deadline: 30/4/2015

Mukiria Technical Training Institute

Construction of tuition block at Mukiria Technical Training Institute in Meru central sub-county, meru county

Principal, Mukiria Technical Training Institute, PO Box 1093, Meru 60200; or deposit in tender box in institute's main office

Deadline: 30/4/2015

Kenya School of Law

Provision of staff medical insurance cover
Director/Chief Executive and Secretary, Kenya School of Law Board, PO Box 30369, Nairobi 00100
Deadline: 30/4/2015

National Drought Management Authority (NDMA)

Supply, delivery, installation, configuration and commissioning of local area network for NDMA county offices in Garissa, Mandera, Wajir, Kitui, Makueni, Turkana, West Pokot, Kwale, Kilifi, Lamu, Meru, Taita Taveta, Nyeri and Marsabit
Deadline: 18/5/2015

More information: www.ndma.go.ke and www.dmikenya.or.ke

National Biosafety Authority

Provision of cleaning services for year 2015/2016
Deadline: 30/4/2015

More information: www.biosafetykenya.go.ke

Kenya Power

Supply and Extension of LV single-phase lines and service cables in Kisumu, Siaya, Vihiga, Busia, Bungoma and Kakamega
Deadline: 5/6/2015

Communications Authority of Kenya

Supply, delivery, installation, testing and commissioning of RFID file management system
Secretary, Tender Committee, PO Box 14448, Nairobi 00800; or deposit in tender box on ground floor, CA Centre
Deadline: 13/5/2015

Public Procurement Oversight Authority

Prequalification of suppliers (repair and servicing of servers, computers, laptops, printers, scanners and other ICT equipment)

Deadline: 4/5/2015

Reserved for youths, women and persons with disabilities

More information: www.tenders.go.ke

National Cereals and Produce Board

Provision of guarding services and alarm systems
Managing Director, Cereals and Produce Board, Nyumba ya Nafaka, Machakos/Enterprise Road, Industrial Area, PO Box 30586, Nairobi 00100 – deposit in tender box in reception, ground floor of same building

Deadline: 8/5/2015

Office of the Attorney-General and Department of Justice

Sale of Machakos town/Block 11/252, Akamba Public Road Services Limited (in liquidation)

Solicitor-General, PO Box 40112, Nairobi 00100; or deposit in tender box on ground floor Sheria House, Harambee Avenue

Deadline: 7/5/2015

KenGen

Supply and delivery of heavy fuel oil to Kipevu land Kipevu III power stations
Company Secretary and Legal Affairs Director, seventh floor, Stima Plaza Phase III, Kolobot Road, Parklands, PO Box 47936, Nairobi 00100
Deadline: 14/5/2015

Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute

Carrying out environmental and social impact assessment study in Shimoni

Director, Silos Road, English Point – Mkomani, Mombasa; or deposit in tender box next to office of Chief Supplies Officer, KMFRl headquarters, Mombasa; or send to 202353226 (fax) or consultancy.es@kmfri.co.ke (info@kcdp.co.ke in cc)

Deadline: 11/5/2015

Kenya Reinsurance Corporation Limited

Managing Director, Reinsurance Plaza, Nairobi Aga Khan Walk, PO Box 30271, Nairobi 00100; or deposit in tender box on 16th floor of same building

Deadline: 8/5/2015

Reserved for persons living with disabilities

Kenya Rural Roads Authority

Provision of consultancy services for executive recruitment

Deposit application documents in tender box on sixth floor, Blue Shield Towers, Upper Hill, Hospital Road, Nairobi

Deadline: 5/5/2015

COUNTY

Nyandarua County Government

Supply, delivery, customisation, implementation, training and commissioning of automated revenue collection and management system

County Secretary, PO Box 701, Ol-Kalou 20303; or deposit in tender box at entrance, county headquarters

Deadline: 6/6/2015

Laikipia County Government

Supply, delivery, installation and commissioning of two milk coolers in Matanya and Nyambogichi
County Secretary, PO Box 1271, Nanyuki 10400
Deadline: 30/4/2015

Nairobi City County

Provision of staff medical insurance cover
County Secretary, PO Box 30075, Nairobi 00100 – deposit in tender box in room 105, first floor, City Hall Annex
Deadline: 25/5/2015

Vihiga County

Supply of semi-trailer, low bed, (35,000kg-45,000kg), payload
County Secretary, PO Box 344, Maragoli 50300 – deposit in tender box in county headquarters
Deadline: 29/4/2015

County Government of Kwale

Construction of Kwale Market, stalls and electrical installation at Kwale Bus Park

County Supply Chain Office, PO Box 4, Kwale 80403; or deposit in tender box in Supply Chain Management office;
Deadline: 30/4/2015

Reserved for contractors in NCA category 6

County Government of Nyeri

Redevelopment of Mt. Kenya Hospital
County Secretary, PO Box 1112, Nyeri 10100; or deposit in tender box in county headquarters, Kenyatta Road, Nyeri town
Deadline: 19/5/2015

County Government of Kiambu

Construction of fire station in Githunguri sub-county
County Secretary, PO Box 2344, Kiambu 00900; or deposit in tender box in Ruiru sub-county office
Deadline: 7/5/2015

Reserved for contractors in NCA category 6

Nyandarua County Government

Proposed infrastructure development for Kenya Medical Training College (classroom block – phaseli) in Ol-Kalou for Department of Health Service

County Secretary, PO Box 701, Ol-Kalou 20303; or deposit in tender box at entrance, county headquarters

Deadline: 6/6/2015

Narok County Government

Supply and delivery of three firefighting vehicles
County Secretary, PO Box 898, Narok 20500 – deposit in tender box at entrance, county headquarters

Deadline: 4/5/2015

Homa Bay County Government

Supply and delivery of motor vehicle (SUV, 4461cc)
PO Box 469, Homa Bay 40300; or deposit in tender box at county headquarters

Deadline: 7/5/2015

County Government of Kwale

Construction of Pungu Slaughterhouse in Waa/ Ngombeni

County Supply Chain Office, PO Box 4, Kwale 80403; or deposit in tender box in front of Supply Chain Management office

Deadline: 6/5/2015

Reserved for contractors in NCA category 8

County Government of Kiambu

Rehabilitation and upgrade of Kirigiti Stadium
County Secretary, PO Box 2344, Kiambu 00900; or deposit in tender box outside Room 15B in Town Hall, Thika

Deadline: 4/5/2015

County Government of Kiambu

Rehabilitation and upgrading of Thika Stadium
County Secretary, PO Box 2344, Kiambu 00900; or deposit in tender box outside Room 15B in Town Hall, Thika

Deadline: 4/5/2015

County Government of Kisumu

Purchase of land for construction of sanitary landfill
City Manager, PO Box 105, Kisumu 40100
Deadline: 30/4/2015

Laikipia County Government

Request for proposal (carrying out irrigation inventory survey)

County Secretary, PO Box 1271, Nanyuki 10400
Deadline: 30/4/2015

County Assembly of Siaya

Design of plan and supervision of construction of Speaker's residence (technical proposal)

Deadline: 4/5/2015

More information: www.siayaassembly.or.ke

Kiambu County Government

Supply of software and GIS equipment
County Secretary, PO Box 2344, Kiambu 00900; or deposit in tender box in temporary county headquarters, Thika Town Hall, office 15b
Deadline: 11/5/2015

County Government of Kajiado

Supply, installation and commissioning of local area network, VoIP and Wireless Internet Facility at the County Headquarters

County Secretary, PO Box 11, Kajiado 01100; or deposit in tender box in Procurement office
Deadline: 8/5/2015

Kwale County Government

Expression of interest (sale of land)

County Procurement Office, PO Box 4, Kwale 80403; or deposit in tender box in Procurement office
Deadline: 7/5/2015

County Government of Trans Nzoia

Supply and delivery of special equipment, machinery and plant for agricultural mechanisation station

County Secretary, PO Box 4211, Kitale 30200; or deposit in tender box in Supply Chain Mngement office, County Yard
Deadline: 8/5/2015

Nandi County Assembly

Builders works (proposed County Assembly of Nandi)

Clerk, PO Box 673, Kapsabet 30300 – deposit in tender box in Assembly entrance

Deadline: 7/5/2015

Reserved for contractors in NCA category 3

Embu County Government

Construction of Kianjokoma Hospital mortuary
County Secretary, PO Box 36, Embu 60100; or deposit in tender box in administration block, Embu Level 5 Hospital
Deadline: 7/5/2015

Homa Bay County Government

Construction of crush pens in all eight sub-counties in Homa Bay

County Procurement Officer, PO Box 469, Homa Bay 40300; or deposit in tender box at entrance, county headquarters

Deadline: 7/5/2015

County Government of Kakamega

Construction of governor's residence in Likuyani
More information: www.kakamega.go.ke
Deadline: 12/5/2015

County Government of Kwale

Construction of cultural centre restaurant and “cabro” parking

County Supply Chain Office, PO Box 4, Kwale 80403; or deposit in tender box in front of Supply Chain Management office

Deadline: 6/5/2015

Reserved for contractors in NCA category 8

County Government of Kisumu

Supply, delivery, installation and commissioning of four lifts at Prosperity Building, Kisumu

County Secretary, PO Box 2738, Kisumu 40100
Deadline: 30/4/2015

WORLD

1,200 KILLED AS MASSIVE
QUAKE RIPS THROUGH NEPALOffice blocks, towers and houses
collapse in Kathmandu. P.40

CRISIS LOOMS | Central African country's uneasy peace under threat

Burundi on knife edge as Nkurunziza
declared candidate for a third termCivil society and opposition
vowed to go to the streets
if president got the nodBY DANIEL K. KALINAKI
AND AFP
dkalinaki@ke.nationmedia.com

Burundi's President Pierre Nkurunziza was Saturday declared as candidate for a controversial third term in office, his ruling party announced, despite mounting protests over a move that the opposition says is unconstitutional.

"We wish to announce to the national and international community that the member who has been selected to represent us in the elections is Pierre Nkurunziza," the head of the ruling CNDD-FDD party, Pascal Nyabenda, announced after a party meeting.

He said Nkurunziza "has the right to be elected."

The opposition has vowed to take to the streets to challenge Nkurunziza's candidacy for the June 26 presidential elections.

At a press conference in Bujumbura on Thursday, representatives of civil society organisations called for mass demonstrations today if President Nkurunziza gets the nod to run for a third term.

“

As elections approach, the alarming crackdown on dissenting voices has intensified”

Sarah Jackson, Amnesty International

Civil society activists and opposition party officials say a third term for Mr Nkurunziza would violate the Constitution and the Arusha peace deal that ended a decade of fighting in the small central African country.

Supporters say Mr Nkurunziza's first five-year term, from 2005, does not count, as he was elected by legislators and not by universal adult suffrage.

Tensions have escalated in recent months in urban areas where opposition supporters have been holding protests, and in rural areas where an estimated 8,000 people have forced to flee their homes into Rwanda by youth militia associated with the ruling party.

In July 2014, Amnesty International warned that the ruling



FILE | AFP

Burundi President Pierre Nkurunziza at a past event in Paris. The ruling party yesterday endorsed him as its candidate in the June 26 election.

party was "perpetrating a relentless campaign of intimidation against government critics".

It noted: "The youth wing of the CNDD-FDD, the Imbonerakure, have been responsible for intimidation, harassment and violence, attacking and even killing members of the political opposition with impunity."

The warning drew chilling parallels with the Interahamwe militia in neighbouring Rwanda that participated in the 1994 genocide.

In January, the BBC reported that government soldiers had executed 17 rebels after they surrendered, and added that it had discovered their bodies in a mass grave in the north-west of the country. The government denied responsibility but launched an investigation.

In a separate incident in the same month, gunmen in military fatigues dragged three CNDD-FDD supporters out of a bar in eastern Burundi, tied them up, and shot them dead. They later raided the party branch office in the area and burnt a party flag.

There are fears that tensions could escalate into widespread violence following Mr Nkurunziza endorsement.

On Monday, Defence Minister Maj-Gen Pontien Gacyubwenge said the army was ready to "assist the other security actors in resisting the detractors of peace" if demonstrations broke out.

He was speaking after a week-end in which police fired tear gas and used water cannons to disperse more than a thousand

opposition supporters who were demonstrating against President Nkurunziza's third term.

Several parts of the capital were put on lock-down for hours and more than a hundred demonstrators were arrested, many of whom face up to 10 years in jail for "taking part in an insurrectional movement".

Although President Nkurunziza, 51, has been circumspect about his third term ambitions, he is unlikely to find resistance within his party.

"I am quite sure that he is going to be anointed unopposed as the candidate," a member of the party, who asked not to be named because they aren't authorised to speak on its behalf, said before yesterday's endorsement. "Even if there is a vote, he is likely to be win easily because CNDD-FDD has not prepared any other candidate. There is no plan-B."

Resistance has come from other sections of society, including the influential Catholic Church, with the powerful Archbishop of Gitega, Monsignor Simon Ntamwana, openly critical of the third-term campaign.

Nkurunziza's supporters say the church is not happy that the President, who, like the majority of people in Burundi, was raised in the Catholic faith, converted to the 'born-again' Pentecostal church. However, diplomats say Monsignor Ntamwana and other religious leaders are genuinely fearful that the third-term effort could lead to violence and political instability.

BACKGROUND

Fragile political
stability at risk

The Arusha peace deal ended a decade of fighting in which an estimated 300,000 people were killed in Burundi's civil wars. It also established a power-sharing formula between the Hutu majority and the Tutsi minority. There are fears that a third-term for President Nkurunziza could upset the fragile political stability and with it the delicate ethnic balance.

Some government officials hold similar views, including members of the intelligence and security agencies.

A leaked February report from Burundi's intelligence service warned that in case spontaneous demonstrations broke out, it would be difficult for the security forces to contain the situation without loss of human life.

"Even if the security forces manage to quell the situation there is the risk of using excessive force and those in power may one day find themselves in front of the International Criminal Court for excessive force against demonstrators," the report says.

The same report warned that there was a risk of security forces breaking down in the face of "spontaneous demonstrations" along ethnic-military lines.

We could not independently confirm widely-held views that the intelligence report, which recommended the CNDD-FDD to pick a new candidate, was the reason behind President

CONTINUED ON PAGE 39

South African
shops closed
in Malawi

BLANTYRE, Saturday

South African-owned shops in Malawi have remained closed after calls for a boycott from activists angered at recent xenophobic attacks.

In the commercial capital Blantyre, armed police guarded several South African chain stores.

Several hundred Malawians have been evacuated from South Africa after the recent wave of xenophobic violence.

Consumer activist John Kapito said in the capital Lilongwe the aim of the boycott was "to send a symbolic message".

"South Africans cannot chase us from their country and expect us to help them grow their economy by patronising their shops," he said.

Outlets of the popular South African PEP, Shoprite and Game stores were closed in all major cities across the country.

Some 390 Malawians have been repatriated from South Africa, with a further 500 expected to arrive later.

At least seven people have been killed and 5,000 left homeless since the attacks started last month.

Troops flee as
Boko Haram
retakes town

MAIDUGURI, Saturday

Suspected Boko Haram insurgents have forced hundreds of soldiers to flee Marte, a border town on the shores of Lake Chad, a local official said Friday.

"The terrorists, numbering over 2,000, appeared from various directions on Thursday and engaged the soldiers in Kirenowa town and adjoining communities in Marte," said Imam Habeeb, a local community leader.

"They fought over the night and continued today (Friday), forcing hundreds of soldiers to flee," he added from Borno State capital Maiduguri.

Local fighter Shehu Dan Baiwa said the militants had bombs and tanks. "They used the weapons without restraint and succeeded in killing several people," he said.

This is the third time Boko Haram has seized control of Marte in restive Borno State, a key battleground of their six-year insurgency, which has killed more than 13,000 and left 1.5 million homeless.

The city is among several retaken in recent weeks by Nigeria's military, which has launched an offensive against the Islamists as part of a regional operation supported by Chad, Cameroon and Niger. (AFP)

CRYING OUT FOR FREEDOM | Western Sahara was annexed by Morocco for 40 years

‘Africa’s last colony’ ready to return to war

Western Sahara has often been dubbed “Africa’s last colony”. Forty years after Morocco annexed and started its occupation of the country, its future and direction is still limbo.

Western Sahara opened an embassy in Kenya in 2006 after an agreement was signed to establish diplomatic relations.

After two years, President Kibaki’s government requested a temporary suspension of the diplomatic relations.

Following Uhuru Kenyatta’s election, Kenya re-established ties in December, 2013.

Abdi Latif Dahir spoke to Bah el Mad Abdellah, with the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic second ambassador to Kenya.

QUESTION: How would you define Western Sahara’s relationship with Kenya?

ANSWER: Our relationship is based on the value that Kenya represents to us as Sahrawis. Kenya, as an important member of the African Union and plays an active role at the international level in resolving conflicts. Kenya’s principled stand on the Sahrawi people’s quest to self-determination and independence is also enough reason for us to establish an embassy here.

Q: 2015 marks 40 years since

the signing of the Madrid tripartite agreement between Spain, Morocco and Mauritania, which essentially annexed Western Sahara. How does that affect the Sahrawi’s agitation for self-determination today?

A: In the beginning, Morocco centred its attention on the then Spanish Sahara, to which it began laying claim publicly. Lacking any legal basis for its claim, Morocco, which was then joined by Mauritania, requested the UN General Assembly to refer the issue to the International Court of Justice (ICJ). In its historic advisory opinion on 16 October, 1975, the ICJ found no legal ties between Western Sahara and the two countries at the time of the Spanish colonisation. Using this historical context, the Sahrawi people and freedom defenders all over the world are working together to find a lasting solution to this critical issue.

Q: Hundreds of thousands of Sahrawis were displaced and have lived in camps in south-west Algeria for decades. What’s the situation like there?

A: A large number of Sahrawis became refugees after Moroccan planes bombed civilian camps in the interior of Western Sahara with banned napalm and cluster bombs in 1976. The southwestern desert



“The Sahrawi people will use the only option to getting their rights, which is returning to armed struggle and declaring a national liberation war”
Ambassador Bah el Mad Abdellah

Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic Ambassador to Kenya Bah el Mad Abdellah.

region near Tindouf offered a potential safe region in Algeria. Due to the harsh and extreme desert climate, the refugees are largely dependent on food aid. Food aid is however often irregular and insufficient; it’s an alarming situation.

Q: The UN seems unable to find a mutually acceptable solution to the problem. Why?

A: It is significant to underline in this regard that neither the UN nor any state in the world has recognised

Morocco’s illegal annexation. The involvement of the UN dates back to 1963 when the territory was placed on the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories. The list included territories whose people had not yet attained a full measure of self-government. Besides, all the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly since 1966 have a common denominator, which is the recognition of the inalienable right of the people of Western Sahara to self-deter-

mination and the need for its implementation through a free and fair referendum.

Q: Experts state lack of interest by key powers in the West to exert pressure on Morocco to allow the referendum on self-determination to take place.

A: There is no doubt that this lack of interest plays a vital role in the resolution of this conflict. It is a shame and a matter of deep concern that four decades after the onset of the conflict, all efforts to find a solution have failed.

Q: How does the aftermath of the Arab Spring affect Western Sahara’s cause?

A: The slogans of the Arab Spring were based on self-determination, respect for human life, democracy, economic and social rights. These unprecedented developments in North Africa and the Middle East have demonstrated clearly that any solution in Western Sahara must reflect the will of its people if it is to be credible and sustainable, and if it is to foster peace, security and regional integration.

Q: The ceasefire between the Polisario Front and Morocco has been in effect for 24 years. Given the current political impasse, is there a chance that hostilities might resume?

A: As much as we are ready

with good faith to find a lasting solution, we are also ready to defend our rights and to liberate the occupied territory. The reality is that the Sahrawi population inside the occupied territory of Western Sahara has for many years been subjected to serious human rights abuses, as documented by various UN and international human rights organisations. Morocco continues its exploitation of the natural resources of Western Sahara. If the international community doesn’t move with this issue and Morocco continues disobeying UN resolutions, then the Sahrawi people will use the only option to getting their rights, which is returning to armed struggle and declaring a national liberation war.

Q: Finally, what is the Sahrawi government currently doing to get Morocco back to the table for negotiations?

A: Morocco is refusing to cooperate with the African Union and its special envoy, former Mozambican president, Joaquim Chissano. The Sahrawi government stresses the fact that the joint endeavours by the UN and AU were and will remain the key mechanisms to solving this conflict.

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Burundi walks a tight rope as Nkuruziza seeks a third term

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 38

Nkurunziza’s decision to fire the head of the intelligence service, Major-General Godefroid Niyombare in February, after only three months on the job.

Rights groups say space for political dissent and expression of critical and alternative views has been narrowing ahead of the elections.

In March the mayor of Bujumbura issued guidelines, in conjunction with the Interior Ministry, which only allowed demonstrations by CNDD-FDD while those of civil society groups and opposition parties face restrictions.

“As elections approach, the alarming crackdown on dissenting voices has intensified,” Sarah Jackson, Amnesty International’s deputy regional director for East Africa, the Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes, said. “The authorities need to ensure all Burundians can peacefully express their views.”

The tensions in Burundi have caught the attention of countries in the region and the international community. Earlier this month, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein warned that the country was at a crossroads, caught between free and fair elections on the one hand and “violence and intimidation aimed at subvert-

ing democracy for the sake of gaining or maintaining political power” on the other.

After a visit to the country last year, Samantha Power, the United States ambassador to the UN, warned of “worrying developments” in Burundi, including the arming of militia allied to the ruling party.

However, a source familiar with the matter at the UN said some permanent members of the Security Council were reluctant to endorse a very strong position, arguing that the third-term debate was an internal matter.

Rights violations

As a result, a statement by the Security Council in February made no reference to the third-term debate but only called for a peaceful process and investigation of human rights violations.

“They can’t influence him not to run again, so the option at the moment is to avoid violence,” the diplomatic source said. “It appears like there will be some violence. If it is low-key and limited, they will look the other way but if it becomes widespread then there will be pressure for a more vocal response and that message is clear to Nkurunziza.”

The position of the Security Council and geo-political considerations appear to have set the tone for the African Union, which had a pre-election mis-

sion to the country last month, the East African Community, and other countries in the region including Uganda, Rwanda and Tanzania.

President Paul Kagame of Rwanda hosted President Nkurunziza earlier this month to discuss the situation in Burundi and the growing refugee and insecurity crisis but was careful not to be drawn into the internal political contest in the country.

“I believe Burundi has the capacity to resolve its own issues,” he told journalists after the meeting, “but we are here to assist.”

Uganda, whose President Yoweri Museveni was one of the co-signatories of the Arusha peace deal and controversially engineered his own amendment to the constitution to remain in office, has been quiet on the matter.

Tanzania’s President Jakaya Kikwete, who is seen to wield influence in the neighbouring country but whose term ends in six months, addressed a meeting in Burundi earlier this year in his capacity as chairperson of the East African Community and noted that it was up to the people of Burundi to interpret the law and the legality of Mr Nkurunziza’s candidature.

President Nkurunziza is widely believed to enjoy popular support especially in the rural areas.

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DISASTER | Officials say toll could be higher

1,200 killed as huge quake rips through Nepal

Emergency workers fan out across country to rescue people trapped under collapsed homes

KATHMANDU, Saturday

A massive earthquake killed more than 1,200 people Saturday as it tore through large parts of Nepal, toppling office blocks and towers in Kathmandu and triggering a deadly avalanche at Everest base camp.

Officials said at least 1,170 people are known to have died in Nepal, making it the quake-prone Himalayan nation's worst disaster in more than 80 years.

But the final toll from the 7.8 magnitude quake could be much higher, and dozens more people were reported killed in neighbouring India and China.

"The death toll has reached 1,170," Nepal police spokesman Kamal Singh Bam told AFP.

Emergency workers fanned out across the Himalayan nation to rescue those trapped under collapsed homes, buildings and other debris.

Offers of help poured in from governments around the world, with the United States announcing it was sending in a disaster response team.

"Deaths have been reported from all regions except the far west. All our security personnel have been deployed to rescue and assist those in need," Bam told AFP.

“

It was difficult to breath, but I slowly moved the debris. Someone then pulled me out. I don't know where my friends are"

Dharmu Subedi, survivor



PRAKASH MATHEMA | AFP

Residents walk past a collapsed building in Kathmandu after an earthquake killed more than 1,000 people in Nepal yesterday. It toppled office blocks and towers in Kathmandu and triggered a deadly avalanche that hit Everest base camp.

Officials said 10 people were killed when an avalanche buried parts of Mount Everest's base camp in Nepal where hundreds of mountaineers have gathered at the start of the annual climbing season.

"We don't have the details yet, but 10 have been reported dead so far, including foreign climbers," Gyanendra Kumar Shrestha, an official in Nepal's tourism department, told AFP.

"We are trying to assess how many are injured. There might be over 1,000 people there right now, including foreign climbers and Nepalese supporting staff."

AFP Nepal bureau chief Ammu Kan-nampilly, on an assignment to Everest together with a colleague, was among those caught up in the chaos.

"We are both ok... snowing here so no choppers coming," she said in

an SMS on approach to base camp. "I hurt my hand — got it bandaged and told to keep it upright to stop the bleeding."

But the worst damage was in Kathmandu, where the historic nine-storey Dharahara Tower, a major tourist attraction, was among buildings brought down.

At least a dozen bodies were taken away from the ruins of the 19th-century tower, according to an AFP photographer who saw similar scenes of multiple casualties throughout the city.

"It was difficult to breath, but I slowly moved the debris. Someone then pulled me out. I don't know where my friends are," Dharmu Subedi, who was standing outside the tower when it collapsed, said from a hospital bed.

At least 42 people were known to have died in India, including 30 in the eastern state of Bihar, while buildings in the capital New Delhi had to be evacuated.

The United States Geological Survey said the shallow quake struck 77 kilometres northwest of Kathmandu at 0611 GMT, with walls crumbling and families fleeing outside their homes.

The quake tore through the middle of highways in the capital and also caused damage to the country's only international airport.

Kari Cuelenaere, an official at the Dutch embassy, said the impact had swept the water out of a swimming pool at a hotel where Dutch national day was being celebrated.

Aftershock tremors could be felt more than two hours after the initial quake. (AFP)

Police in Europe crack horse meat trafficking ring

THE HAGUE, Saturday

Police from seven European countries detained 26 people in a crackdown on a horse meat trafficking ring two years after a tainted meat scandal that rocked the continent, the EU's judicial agency Eurojust said Saturday.

Eurojust said in a statement that the swoop gathering hundreds of police and judicial officials "succeeded in stopping an organised criminal network involved in trade in illegal horse meat."

The operation involved officers and the judiciary in France, Belgium, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Britain.

Eurojust did not say where the 26 suspects were arrested but the Dutch public prosecutor's office said three were arrested in the Netherlands.

Media in Belgium said

four of its nationals, including the alleged ringleader, were arrested in France.

Eurojust said the main suspect in the ring, which is accused of introducing horse meat unfit for human consumption into the European food chain, was Belgian.

The suspect, who was operating out of Belgium, had been under investigation since November 2012, the statement added.

French authorities estimate that between 2010 and 2013 some 4,700 horses unfit for human consumption were slaughtered for the food trade.

The arrests come two years after a major scandal triggered by the discovery that horse meat was being passed off as beef in burgers and other meat products sold across Europe.

Meatballs, sausages and frozen burgers were pulled from supermarket shelves by the millions over the find.

Eurojust did not say whether there was any connection between this week's raids and the 2013

Fighting claims 92 in Yemen as pressure for talks mounts

TAEZ, Yemen, Saturday

At least 92 people have been killed in Saudi-led coalition air strikes and fighting between supporters of President Abdrabbo Mansour Hadi and Iran-backed rebels, sources said Saturday.

The fighting raged as pressure mounted on the warring factions to hold political talks.

The Huthi rebels, who have overrun large parts of the country and forced Hadi to flee overseas, have demanded an end to a month of air strikes against them as a condition for UN-sponsored talks.

In the key port city of Aden and in the adjacent Lahj province alone, 46 rebels died in ongoing clashes and 12 hours of intense air strikes that lasted until early Saturday, a military source close to them said.

Warplanes' targets included the rebel-held presidential palace which was Hadi's last refuge before he fled to neighbouring Saudi Arabia last month, military officials said.

Residents in Lahj said that the rebels have captured "dozens" of civilians they accused of aiding the coalition by giving them information on rebel targets.

Former strongman Ali Abdullah Saleh, who still holds



SALEH AL-OBEIDI | AFP

Militiaman loyal to President Abdrabbo Mansour Hadi take positions during clashes with rebels in Aden yesterday

sway over army units allied with the Shiite rebels, late on Friday urged the Huthis to heed UN demands to withdraw from territory they have seized.

US Secretary of State John Kerry also called on the anti-government forces to enter into dialogue to end a conflict that

the UN says has killed more than 1,000 people.

"This has to be a two-way street," Kerry told reporters, adding: "We need the Huthi and we need those that can influence them to make sure that they are prepared to try to move... to the negotiating table." (AFP)

IS suicide bombers kill four

BAGHDAD, Saturday

The Islamic State group claimed an attack Saturday by French, Belgian and Senegalese suicide bombers on the Iraq-Jordan border that officials said killed at least four Iraqi security personnel.

The bombers detonated explosives-rigged vehicles, one of them a lorry, at checkpoints on the Iraqi side of the Turaibil crossing, said Sabah Karhout, the head of the Anbar province council.

He put the toll at four dead and eight wounded.

The deputy head of the crossing, Khaled Alwan, and army Colonel Jabr Khailan, both confirmed the attack but gave higher tolls.

The Islamic State (IS) jihadist group claimed the assault in a statement posted online, saying the bombers were from France, Belgium and Senegal.

It said the bombers targeted the main checkpoint at the crossing, a mess hall and sleeping quarters for security personnel, and an army patrol.

Iraqi security forces control pockets of territory in Anbar, a vast desert province that stretches from the borders with Syria, Jordan and Saudi Arabia to the western approaches to Baghdad.

But much of the province is held by IS, which spearheaded an offensive last June that overran swathes of territory north and west of the Iraqi capital. (AFP)

26

Number of people detained in crackdown on horse meat trafficking ring

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Death and Funeral Announcement

It is with humble acceptance of God's will that we
announce the death of Rev. Peter Wainaina Nyagah
of Full Gospel Churches of Kenya-Geta Local
Church which occurred on 18th April 2015 at J.M
Memorial Hospital Olkalou. Husband of Mrs. Margaret
Nyambura Nyagah. Son of the late Stephen Wainaina
and Mrs. Zipporah Wanjiru. Father of Mwangi Wa
Nyagah Former Chairman Olkalou Town Council,
Zipporah Njenga, Faith Njeri Maina, William Ng'ang'a,
Mary Kagambo, Susan Wadaka and Samuel Muchina.
Brother of Samuel Muchina and Jorum Ndeithi. Step-
brother of Njogu Ndeithi from Kinare. Grandpa of
Nyagah, Nyambura among others.

Friends and relatives are meeting daily at his home
Mwereri Farm Olkalou, Geta F.G.C.K Church and
Bullhead Hotel Olkalou. The cortege leaves Nakuru
Umash Funeral Home on Wednesday, 29th April 2015
at 9:00a.m for a burial at his Farm Mwereri, Olkalou.
Dad, pastor, grandpa, brother, may your soul rest in
peace.

"You have fought a good fight, finished the race and kept the faith." 2nd Timothy 4:7

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Sport



LONDON MARATHON
One of the greatest fields in history lines up for the race today. **P.44**

BASKETBALL | Red-hot Imbali leads 4-Christ to victory over Nebulas Kakamega

Mennonites break their season’s duck with a Lions win

Victors survive late rally from former champions in thrilling league match at Nyayo gymnasium

BY CAXTON APOLLO
sportsdesk@ke.nationmedia.com

Mennonites celebrated their first victory in this year’s men’s basketball Premier League with a hard-fought 57-56 win over Lions at Nyayo National Stadium gymnasium yesterday.

After losing four matches in a row, Mennonites to deny Lions their first win of the season.

Mennonites trailed Lions 17-16 in the first quarter before edging ahead 28-27 at the break.

Strong Simon Mayien, Victor Ochieng and Collins Odhiambo, who had started well for Lions, lost their fighting spirit in the third quarter in which Mennonites used Moses Koome and Irungu Maina to respond to their threat.

The duo put pressure to steer Mennonites, who had lost 65-49 against Umoja last weekend, to go up 24-14 at the end of the

“The boys were desperate to register their first win and ended up committing unnecessary turnovers when they were leading comfortably”

Sonny Mugesha, Mennonites coach

third quarter. Mennonites had a 10-point advantage, 52-41, at the beginning of the last quarter but were let down by turnovers in which Ochieng and Mayien of Lions capitalized on to hit them hard and stay in sight of the game.

Lions, who are still winless in five outings, had Collins Odhiambo missing a critical free-throw that could have sent the game into over-time at 57-57.

Odhiambo scored a game high 17 points, Koome (11) for Mennonites while Ochieng and Mayien each provided 12 and Odhiambo (13) for Lions.

“The boys were desperate to register their first win and ended up committing unnecessary turnovers when they were leading comfortably,” Mennonites coach Sonny Mugesha said.

Poor performance

Lions coach Ikapian Juma said: “ We have adjusted our training sessions which have contributed to our poor performance where have lost all our five matches. Just like last year, we intend to work on our weakness on inadequate training to do well in coming fixtures.

“We train for only a few hours and no team can do well in any competition when the players do not train adequately,” said Juma, a former Lions and Kenya international.

In the men’s Division One League match, red-hot Daniel Imbali scored 31 points to lead 4-Christ in a comfortable 63-54 victory over visiting Nebulas Kakamega. Imbali was on fire from the word go scoring the opening 12 points for the winners as they led 12-10 in the first quarter.

Nebulas hit back to tie the scores 25-25 at half-time before they overpowered their hosts taking a 18-11 third quarter lead. 4-Christ had Imbali again sinking 12 points in the last quarter.



CHRIS OMOLLO | NATION
Lions’s Simon Mayien (left) drives up the court as Mennonites’s Arnolds Ojuju gives chase during their basketball Premier League match yesterday at Nyayo Stadium gymnasium. Mennonites won 57-57.

Leonard stars as Spurs sweep past LA Clippers

Los Angeles

Kawhi Leonard showed why he is worthy of being named the defensive player of the year, putting his complete game on display for the San Antonio Spurs on Friday.

Leonard scored a career-high 32 points to carry the Spurs to a 100-73 win over the Los Angeles Clippers and a 2-1 lead in their best-of-seven Western Conference playoff series.

In the other playoff contests Friday, the Houston Rockets and Washington Wizards also won to take commanding 3-0 series leads. No team in NBA history has ever lost after taking a 3-0 lead in a best-of-seven series.

Leonard not only anchored the Spurs’ defense but he wasted no time putting his stamp on the game offensively.

He finished 13-of-18 shooting with three steals and two blocks, playing less than two minutes in the fourth quarter with the game well in hand. Leonard was named the league’s top defensive player earlier Friday.

Boris Diaw came off the bench

100-73

San Antonio Spurs victory over Los Angeles Clippers in their NBA Western Conference playoff series

to finish with 15 points and six rebounds in the win. Two-time MVP Tim Duncan, who scored 28 points to carry the Spurs to their overtime win in game two, finished with just four points on two-of-six shooting from the field.

The Spurs will look to take a commanding 3-1 series lead in today’s game four. The Clippers won game one in convincing fashion and lost a close contest in game two.

Blake Griffin tallied 14 points, 10 rebounds and five assists in the loss.

Chris Paul committed six turnovers and finished with just seven points. The Clippers’ reserves also struggled as Jamal Crawford missed all but one of the 11 shots from the field he attempted. The reserves had just 30 points on 41 shots.

James Harden and Dwight Howard set playoff career highs as Houston beat the Dallas Mavericks 130-128 and are now just one victory away from advancing. (AFP)

Netball champs MOICT bring down Ulinzi in Kisumu

BY GAITANO PESSA
sportsdesk@ke.nationmedia.com

Kenya champions Ministry of Communication and Information Technology (MOICT) thrashed Ulinzi 35-29 in their first match of the second leg of National League at Jomo Kenyatta grounds, Kisumu.

In a Super League match, dominant Kenyatta Hospital handed Western

Stima a 50-27 lesson after leading 18-9 at half time.

In the Division one category, pool A, Mombasa-based Frere Town, under the tutelage of coach Said Salim, were narrowly defeated 13-16 by Amozel despite dominating the first quarter-final.

In Pool B, St Jones beat Marindi 31-13 while Royal Mombasa narrowly edged past Mombasa County 28-23 but fell 29-17 at the hands of Red hot

Bungoma ladies.

35-29

Ministry of Communication and Information Technology’s victory over Ulinzi in their netball National League match yesterday in Kisumu

<p>GOLF</p> <p>England’s former number one Lee Westwood stormed ahead to snatch the third round lead with a seven-under-par 65 at the CIMB Niaga Indonesian Masters yesterday.</p>	<p>KENYAN PREMIER LEAGUE</p> <p>3-1</p> <p>Sony Sugar’s convincing win over Chemelil Sugar yesterday at Awendo Green Stadium.</p>	<p>CRICKET</p> <p>Ton-up Brathwaite shores up Windies</p> <p>Kraigg Brathwaite’s (right) unbeaten 101 anchored a determined West Indies second innings as the home side reached 202 for two at stumps on the fourth day of the second Test against England on Friday. Trailing on first innings by 165 runs after the tourists were dismissed for 464 in the morning session, the home side go into the final day’s play ahead by just 37 runs with eight wickets in hand. First innings centurion Marlon Samuels will resume on the last morning on 22.</p>	<p>RUGBY</p> <p>Waratahs survive Rebels rally</p> <p>Defending champions New South Wales Waratahs hung on for a scrappy 18-16 Super Rugby win over the committed Melbourne Rebels in Sydney yesterday. The Waratahs looked in control of their Australian derby at Sydney’s Olympic stadium with a 13-0 lead, but wayward goalkicking by Bernard Foley and the never-say-die Rebels made for a gripping duel in the second half.</p>	<p>SNOOKER</p> <p>China’s Ding Junhui moved into the quarter-finals of the World Championships for just the third time after battling back to defeat John Higgins 13-9 in Sheffield yesterday.</p>
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MARTIN MUKANGU | NATION

Old horse of Kenyan hockey Inderjit Matharu (right) of Sikh Union Nairobi, shows he has still got it, as he glides past Lawrence Nartcy of Ghana Revenue Authority during their Vaisakhi men's semi-final match yesterday at City Park Stadium. Simba won 3-2.

Simba exert sweet Vaisakhi revenge on GRA

BY BRIAN YONGA
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Nairobi Simba beat visiting Ghana Revenue Authority 3-2 at City Park Stadium to book their place in the final of the 2015 Vaisakhi Hockey tournament in a semi final match played at City Park Stadium yesterday.

The semi-final win was a measure of revenge for Simba who lost to GRA in last year's semi final.

Simba will play the winner of the second semi-final between Kenya Police and Chase Sailors that scheduled to be played later yesterday night.

Simba took a half time lead through

Shabaz Shah's 32nd minute field goal despite the visitors dominating the first half.

They doubled the lead after the break when former Kenyan International Inderjit Matharu slotted home the second in the 51st minute after been set up by Asif Shan who beat three GRA defenders on the left side.

The Ghanaians pulled a goal back three minutes later through Nick Hanson's field goal after been put through by winger Kwasi Assah to get his team back in the game.

However, Simba went further ahead in the 59th minute with Jaspreet Kalsi shot that beat GRA keeper Emmanuel Arokful to score his team's third.

GRA scored their second of the game

through a penalty flick that was converted by Charles Moses after Eden Frimpong was fouled by Haggai Pepela but Simba held on for a place in the final.

"We fought for every ball, pushed them (GRA) and they were unable to cope with our pressure. We are ready for any team and we believe we can win the event," said Simba skipper Amit Rajput.

The defeat means the west African side, who were making their third appearance at the event, will have to wait for at least another year to win their maiden Vaisakhi title.

Last year they lost out to Tanzanian outfit Moshi CCL in the final while in 2013 they were placed third.

GRA coach James Manson complained about the officiating.

2015 ALL AFRICA GAMES QUALIFIERS | Coach Lung'aho now eyes continental gold

Perfect Kenya too good for Uganda

Hosts have no answer in attack, defence and service as they fall to African volleyball queens

BY CLIVE KYAZZE
ckyzaze@ug.nationmedia.com
Nation Correspondent in Kampala

David Lung'aho and his volleyball queens have been able to walk the talk, after Kenya finished unbeaten at the Zone V All Africa Games qualifiers that ended yesterday in Kampala.

Kenya defeated the hosts 3-0 (25-11, 25-15, 25-19) in a game that had endless breathtaking rallies to qualify top for this year's All Africa Games. Rivals Egypt qualified second.

"Qualification was just the beginning of the real battle," Lung'aho told *Sunday Nation Sport*. "Now that we have achieved it, we need to work for gold in September," he added. Kenya hasn't won gold since 1996 in Johannesburg, settling for bronze in the last three editions.

Lung'aho made one change from his starting team as Evelyn Makuto got the nod ahead of Monica Biana

From the first Technical Timeout at 7-8 of the first set to the second at 7-16 Uganda didn't make any points as Kenya's attacks of Mercy Moim and Esther Wangeci meted punishment.

Kenya took advantage of Uganda's

3-0

Kenya's win over hosts Uganda in the final Zone V All Africa Games match



MARTIN MUKANGU | NATION

The national women's volleyball team at Kasarani before they faced Tunisia in an FIVB World Cup qualifier on February 22 last year. Kenya beat Uganda 3-0 in Kampala yesterday to qualify top from Zone V for the 2015 All Africa Games.

poor court cover to good effect. Ugandan tactician Bart Murting brought on Josephine Nammanda for Margaret Namyalo.

Kenya raced to a 21-9 with their service game proving too to handle for the Ugandans. At 23-11, Uganda had lost the fighting zeal as Kenya took the set 25-11 with back-to-back blocks from Esther Wangeci.

Kenya led 8-3 by the first T'TO of the second set, still relying on the on point reception of Moim. Kenya led 13-9, while Ugandan crawled back to narrow the gap,

13-11, Lung'aho then called for a timeout and Kenya returned rejuvenated to lead 16-11 by the second T'TO. At 23-15, Lung'aho brought on Triza Atuka for Edith Mukuvulani. She served for Kenya to stretch the lead to 2-0 with a 25-15 win.

Kenya started the third set brightly leading 6-2, but Uganda hit back with six unanswered points to take the lead 8-6 by the first TTO with Peace Busingye in the serving box. But the writing was always on the wall as Kenya ran away with the game.

KCB hold sway in absence of top guns Pipeline and Prisons

BY DAVID KWALIMWA
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Mid-tier clubs Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB) and Nairobi Water capitalised on the absence of top guns Kenya Pipeline and Kenya Prisons, to dominate the third leg of Kenya Volleyball Federation league matches this weekend in Kericho.

Pipeline and Prisons successfully petitioned the federation to reschedule their fixtures as each of the sides has six players on national

team duty in Kampala.

KCB defeated Bungoma County 3-0 (25-17, 25-23 and 25-14) in a contest that lasted 44 minutes.

Left attacker Hellen Wafula topped the scoring charts in this match with 16 points despite turning out for the losing side.

This was the bankers first local match after competing at the Women Africa Championships in Cairo last month, where the team finished 15th out of the 16 teams.

Meanwhile, debutants Nairobi

Water defeated Prisons Mombasa and Vihiga County in a men's league fixture also in Kericho.

3-0

Kenya Commercial Bank's straight sets win over Bungoma County in their league tie yesterday

Water were inspired by former Kenya Airways setter Elijah Bosire

and centre Moses Kurgat, in accomplishing a straight sets win of 25-20, 25-19 and 25-19 over Prisons Mombasa, alongside another similar sets score win of 25-18, 25-18 and 25-22 against Vihiga County.

"Everything is going according to plan. This is our first full season so for the moment we can only aim for a play-offs position," Nairobi Water coach Mwaniko John said.

The league takes a month-long break, paving way for the two-day Mutai Enterprise Cup.

Favourites cruise in Nairobi 10s



BY AYUMBA AYODI
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Defending champions Strathmore Leos, Mwamba and hosts Homeboyz won all their preliminary matches to reach the Cup quarter-finals of the Nairobi 10s at the RFUEA ground.

The Leos were ruthless, preying on Ngong 27-0 and the University of Nairobi's Mean Machine 26-7 before dismantling Comras 31-7 to emerge spotless in Pool A.

Mwamba, the inaugural 2012 winners, whacked Dagoretti Bulldogs and Muranga 29-0 and 30-7 respectively before topping Pool C with a comprehensive 40-5 win over Technical University of Kenya (TUK).

Homeboyz, the 2013 losing finalists, were flawless against Nondescripts and South Eastern Kenya University (SEKU), winning 20-0 and 14-0 respectively in Pool B. They would crush Eastlanders 58-0 to match on to the main Cup that will be played today.

"I fielded a development side but I am glad to see the players rising up to the occasion with some quality display," said Strathmore coach Mitch Ocholla (pictured). "I hope they uphold the momentum and get inspiration from the three wins."

The tournament was not played last year owing to the restructuring of the calendar by Kenya Rugby Union. Strathmore were the last winners in 2013 where they humbled Homeboyz 19-12 at the Nyayo National Stadium.

John Oduk scored a brace of tries as Faustin Chacha, Carl Odhiambo and Churchill Ooko managed one apiece to annihilate Ngong. Brian Alukwa converted one.

Against Machine, Ooko crossed the line twice with Oduk, Alukwe and Rhone Mudambi scoring one try each. Alukwe made the conversions.



RAREFIED FIELD | Eight in the men's race have all run sub 2:04, one holds the world record while another lost it last year

History's best runners clash in London

Kipsang warns training partner Kimetto, he will give no quarters, quality women's race could end up an all-Kenyan duel

BY AYUMBA AYODI
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sayodi@ke.nationmedia.com

It has been christened the battle of the century.

That is what this year's London Marathon today could live up to when the finest field ever to be assembled in long distance history face-off amidst world records being talked about.

Athletics world will come to a standstill when training mates, World marathon record holder Dennis Kimetto and predecessor Wilson Kipsang clash. The duo are in a fantastic pool of five from Kenya, who have been tipped to carry the day.

Kimetto, 30, broke the world record held by Kipsang at the Berlin Marathon with 2:02:57 and became the first man to run under 2:03 on September 28, last year.

Another Kenyan, Emmanuel Mutai, also dipped into the previous record, coming second in 2:03:13. It's on the same course on September 29, 2013, where Kipsang, 32, had set the new world record time of 2:03:23, 15 seconds faster than the previous record by another Patrick Makau set in 2011. The four Kenyans now hold four fastest times in marathon.

Kimetto went to the top of the 2013/2014 World Marathon Major Series upon his victory in Berlin after previous wins at the 2013 Chicago and 2013 Tokyo. But that changed when Kipsang won the New York City Marathon on November 2 to win the series.

While it will be the first time training mates Kimetto and Kipsang will be clashing in full marathon. Kimetto won at

LONDON MARATHON ELITE LIST

MEN

Wilson Kipsang (Kenya) 2:03:23
Dennis Kimetto (Kenya) 2:02:57
Emmanuel Mutai (Kenya) 2:03:13
Eliud Kipchoge (Kenya) 2:04:05
Ayele Abshero (Ethiopia) 2:04:23
Sammy Kitwara (Kenya) 2:04:28
Tsegaye Mekonnen (Ethiopia) 2:04:32
Stanley Biwott (Kenya) 2:04:55
Kenenisa Bekele (Ethiopia) 2:05:04
Tilahun Regassa (Ethiopia) 2:05:27
Samuel Tsegay (Eritrea) 2:07:28
Serhiy Lebida (Ukraine) 2:08:32
Aleksandr Reunkov (Russia) 2:09:54
Ghebregziabhiem Kibrom (Eritrea) 2:10:00
Marcin Chabowski (Poland) 2:10:07
Koen Raymaekers (Netherlands) 2:10:35
Scott Overall (Great Britain & NI) 2:10:55
Michael Shelley (Australia) 2:11:15
Javier Guerra (Spain) 2:12:21
Steve Way (Great Britain & NI) 2:15:16
Christian Kreienbühl (Switzerland) 2:15:35
Pedro

WOMEN

Ribeiro (Portugal) Debut
Edna Kiplagat (Kenya) - 2:19:50
Mary Keitany (Kenya) - 2:18:37
Florence Kiplagat (Kenya) - 2:19:44
Priscah Jeptoo (Kenya) - 2:20:14
Feysse Tadesse (Ethiopia) - 2:20:27
Jemima Sumgong (Kenya) - 2:20:41
Tigist Tufa (Ethiopia) - 2:21:52
Tatyana Arkhipova (Russia) - 2:23:29
Tetyana Gamera-Shmyrko (Ukraine) - 2:23:58
Christelle Daunay (France) - 2:24:22
Ana Dulce Félix (Portugal) - 2:25:40
Sara Moreira (Portugal) - 2:26:00
Alessandra Aguilar (Spain) - 2:27:00
Volha Mazuronak (Belarus) - 2:27:33
Rkia El Mouklim (Morocco) - 2:28:12
Iwona Lewandowska (Poland) - 2:28:32
Diane Nukuri (Burundi) - 2:29:35
Sonia Samuels (Great Britain & NI) - 2:30:56
Emma Stepto (Great Britain & NI) - 2:32:40
Rebecca Robinson (Great Britain & NI) - 2:37:14

“ But let Kimetto know training together and competition will be different. We shall put friendship aside and say everybody for himself” **”**

Wilson Kipsang, marathon runner

2011 RAK Half Marathon before Kipsang turned the tables in Czech last year.

Emmanuel Mutai, Chicago Mara-

PHOTOS | FILE
Emmanuel Mutai races at the 2011 London Marathon. Above: Right, Wilson Kipsang and left, Dennis Kimetto. The trio will be the hot favourites to win the 2015 London Marathon today.

thon champion Eliud Kipchoge, and Geoffrey Mutai, who was at one time the fastest man in marathon with 2:03:02 in 2011 Boston, complete Kenya's fantastic five at the London Marathon field.

Kipsang and Kimetto have been training together in Iten and Kapng'etuny. "But let Kimetto know training together and competition will be different. We shall put friendship aside and say everybody for himself," Kipsang told Kimetto with a telling laughter. "It's my hope we won't really monitor each other but go for an open and fast race," said Kipsang.

The women's field has Kenya's four finest women over the distance but just who will conquer London? Will it be Edna Kiplagat, Mary Keitany, Priscah Jeptoo or Florence Kiplagat? Kenyan women have dominated to win the last four events- Keitany in 2011 and 2012, Jeptoo in 2013 and Edna Kiplagat last year.

World champion Edna (2:19:50) could be the defending champion but the return of the Keitany, whose victory in 2012 in a time of 2:18:37 made her the third fastest in the history of marathon, make her the favourite.

Iten 'viewerthon' the place to be

BY ELIAS MAKORI
emakori@ke.nationmedia.com

Iten town's Keellu Resort, owned by former world marathon record holder Wilson Kipsang, will be the centre of attraction as Kipsang's family along with families of the other athletes competing, assemble to watch today's London Marathon at a 'viewerthon'.

The 'viewerthon' is organised by the Bank of Africa. The bank organised a similar 'viewerthon' viewing party for the Boston Marathon at the Tortoise Hotel in Kapsabet.

Speaking to *Sunday Nation Sport* from London yesterday, fastest-rising marathon star Eliud Kipchoge, with a personal best 2:04:05 tucked under his belt, said he was confident ahead of today's race where organisers have set the pacemakers on a halfway target of 61 minutes and 45 seconds and some rain expected.

"It's somehow cold and drizzling

today. I hope tomorrow (today) will be OK, but they say it might rain in the morning," said Kipchoge, the 2014 Chicago Marathon champion and 2003 World Championships 5,000 metres gold medallist.

Besides Kipsang and Kipchoge, the top men's field that has eight sub 2:04 runners, includes Kipsang's stable-mate and world record holder Dennis Kimetto (PB and world record 2:02:57), Geoffrey Mutai (2:04:15), Sammy Kitwara (2:04:28), Ethiopia's Tsegaye Mekonnen (2:04:32) and Stanley Biwott (2:04:55). The women's field will be a star-studded one too with three of the top runners all from within two kilometres of each other in Iten town. Two of them, defending champion Edna Kiplagat (2:19:50) and Mary Keitany (2:18:37) have won in London before with the third, Florence Kiplagat (2:19:44) coming into London with the half marathon world record of 1:05:12.

EMOTIONAL RACE

Radcliffe says farewell

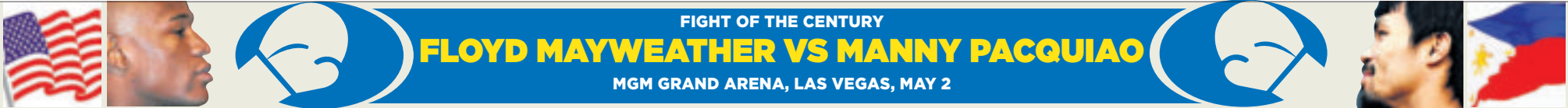
Three-time winner Paula Radcliffe prepares to bid a tearful farewell to the London Marathon. Radcliffe's last appearance in the race that established her as one of the finest female marathon runners of all time will be the main focus for British fans.

There won't be many dry eyes among Radcliffe's friends and family once her race is finally run over the same 26.1-mile route on which she set a world record of two hours 15 minutes 25 seconds in April 2003 — a mark which still stands. The 41-year-old Englishwoman will compete not as part of the elite field, but among the mass ranks after battling a series of injuries in recent years.

Radcliffe's husband Gary, her parents and children Isla and Raphael will all line the course to watch the 2005 World Championship gold medallist bow out. "I would love to have taken part in the London Olympics in 2012 as my last competitive race at the front but we don't get to choose that," said Radcliffe, who plans to continue running only in a non-competitive environment.

"I'm very lucky to have the long career that I've had. It's such a magical special race. It's something that's hard to put into words how important it is." Radcliffe's record could come under threat from a quartet of Kenyan stars — Mary Keitany, the London champion in 2011 and 2012, defending champion Edna Kiplagat, Priscah Jeptoo, the 2013 winner, and Florence Kiplagat.





KWENDO OPANGA | Filipino Congressman is a ‘forward ever, backward never’ fighter

Good people, you can take this to the bank: Pac Man will unpack Money Man!



Pacquiao has the better trainer in Frederick Steven Roach who was voted Trainer of the Year by the Boxing Writers Association of America in 2003, 2006, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2013

It's a small world. A local transit company has the name Floyd Mayweather emblazoned on its buses in big, bold and capital letters. It is possible that when Mayweather aka Money squares up with Filipino Senator Manny Pacquiao aka Pac Man next weekend the owners of the buses will know a mega boxing match will be on.

They could not have inscribed the American boxer's name on their vehicles if they did not know him or admire his skills in the ring or braggadocio out of it. But it is highly unlikely that their multitudes of commuters will have an idea who Money or Manny is, much less that they are involved in the richest fight ever.

What I can tell you for certain is that when Pac Man fights, life on the 2,000 inhabited of the 7,107 islands that make up the Philippines, comes to a standstill. They say in the capital Manila that when Pac Man fights there is no crime for the duration of the bout because even pickpockets, pimps and assorted criminals take leave to watch.

But the May 2 fight will be like no other. Mayweather and Pacquiao do not like each other; the former is undefeated world champ over five different divisions; the latter has been world champ over eight different categories and, each believes he is the best in the world. This fight should have taken place when the two were younger.

Money was 38 in February and Pack Man will be 37 in December. If the two had fought five years ago, they would have been faster, sharper, and much more aggressive and adventurous than they are now. They have slowed down and will be much more calculating and cautious. But, hunger to win will still drive them.

Both are multi-millionaires many times over, but the prize money will surely pump up their adrenaline tremendously. They will split some US\$200 million, with Mayweather taking home 60 per cent of that or US\$120 million and Pacquiao US\$80 million. A rematch, irrespective of outcome, is a certainty, with an even bigger purse.

So, who will win this mega fight in Las Vegas? They say in the land of the free and brave that attack sells tickets and packs the stadia, but defence wins the games. If this is true, then, Pacquiao is in trouble because Mayweather is, by popular repute, the master of defensive boxing.

But are Mayweather's defences impenetrable? I believe an offensive and aggressive Pacquiao could penetrate Mayweather's vaunted defences with a high activity rate, swift attacks, swifter counters and the swiftest power-packed punching from all angles and overwhelm the American.

Pac Man is a "forward ever, backward never" fighter who could force Money on the defensive and so the question is, will the American swiftly transition from defence to offence and with power punches hurt and force the Filipino into the unfamiliar territory of retreat?

That is, which boxer will make adjustments to his style quicker in the ring? Pack Man overwhelms his opponents with multiple power punches or flurries of combinations that seem to come from nowhere and

Mayweather-Pacquiao to become richest fight

The megafight between Floyd Mayweather and Manny Pacquiao is expected to become the top-grossing prizefight of all time



Pictures: Getty Images, Associated Press

© GRAPHIC NEWS

everywhere. But an under pressure Money has often been the one who progressively turns the tables.

Who has the better ring craft, responses, awareness of enclosure and movement to duck and block, slip and check, sneak into position or out of range and attack or counter? Mayweather does all these, but he will not enjoy a monopoly. Pacquiao may attack and attack, but against Mayweather he will have to adjust to defend too.

So, which boxer is better placed to break the other's rhythm, hurt him early and establish that crucial psychological advantage? I choose Pack Man. He peppers opponents, leaving them a bloody mess while Money is not known for Tyson-style brutality? Neither will be reckless in attack because that will be suicidal.

This tells me Pacquiao and Mayweather will fight cautiously from

the outset and any opening seen will be exploited immediately. Each boxer will be looking for an early opportunity to hit the other hard and hurt him, but I also see each seeking to frustrate the other and deny him confidence and rhythm.

Either Money will wear Pac Man down and progressively take control of the fight or the Filipino will overwhelm him with flurries from nowhere and everywhere. I see a close, absorbing and at times explosive contest settled by a split decision. Money may not want to lose his unbeaten record; but Pac Man will unpack him.

Here's why and how:
■ Pac Man has been beaten and knocked out flat, but Money has never been. If Pack Man attacks from the word go and hits Money hard and hurts him early, the American will be unchartered territory and vulnerable;

■ Mayweather says Pacquiao's past defeats, especially the knock out by Marquez will haunt the Filipino in the ring, but beating an unbeaten boxer could be the best motivator for a challenger;

■ Patriotic sentiment will be high at a jam-packed MGM Grand Hotel and Pac Man will know that he has to take the crowd out of the contest early by frustrating Money and making it clear he is playing to win;

■ Pacquiao and Mayweather have fast hand speeds and pack power punches, but Pacquiao has the advantage of throwing multiple combinations or flurries from any and every angle possible; and

■ Pac Man has the better trainer in Frederick Steven Roach who was voted Trainer of the Year by the Boxing Writers Association of America in 2003, 2006, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2013.

The underdog will prevail in Las Vegas

BY GREG PRICE
sportsdesk@ke.nationmedia.com

An undisputed and undefeated five-division champion, Floyd Mayweather will enter the MGM Grand Arena in Las Vegas as a massive favourite over rival Manny Pacquiao on May 2. The 38-year-old Mayweather has earned the nickname "Money" both for his business acumen and for being one of the surest bets in boxing history as he's taken down 47 straight opponents and never tasted defeat once.

Based on the most recent odds from Bovada.lv, the bout is largely expected to sway in Mayweather's favour. The over-under on the total number of rounds currently stands at 11.5, meaning book makers firmly believe the defensive-minded Mayweather will control the mega-fight's tempo and put the decision in the hands of the judges.

Winning seven of his last eight bouts via decision, the chances Mayweather picks up another decision off Pacquiao has been set at -140. Essentially, the safest bet once again lies in Team Money's corner. But with the fight now seven days away, set to bust every gate, pay-per-view, and purse record in its path, there are reasons to believe the underdog Pacquiao will prevail.

Southpaws are always a problem

Mayweather's on the cusp of capping one of the greatest careers in boxing history. Only a handful of fighters have finished their careers undefeated, and Mayweather figures to join them if he can hold off Pacquiao.

The problem is Pacquiao's southpaw stance, and Mayweather having faced only five lefties in his career. Mayweather's beaten every southpaw he's faced, the last being Robert Guerrero in 2013, but none possessed the power and relentless nature of Pacquiao.

This certainly gives credence to the theory that Mayweather has avoided Pacquiao all these years because of the latter's style.

Pacquiao's desire

To be clear, neither combatant desperately needs this fight for the money. The fact that each will clear nine figures from the combined purse, gate and PPV buys is a major perk on top of the decades-worth of bragging rights up for grabs.

But there's very little question who stands to benefit the most from a victory. Pacquiao would once again be on top of the boxing world having dropped his only real equal throughout his career. Talk of the disastrous knockout loss to Juan Manuel Marquez two years ago will be viewed as an anomaly rather than awkward punctuation at the end of Pacquiao's career.

A step slower vs Maidana

Both fighters have hinted their matchup could be one of if not the last of their esteemed careers, and for Mayweather he might be getting out at the right time. He's undoubtedly one of the greatest in history, but in Mayweather's last two bouts against Argentina's Marcos Maidana he looked a step slower and allowed Maidana to score points other fighters wouldn't have earned in previous years.

Maidana's strategy against Mayweather is the one Pacquiao has used for every opponent, and he hasn't shown any tendency to tire in the later rounds. If Pacquiao can keep up that same kind of pressure, and land his power shots in high volume, Mayweather might not be undefeated much longer. (IBT)



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ARSENAL vs CHELSEA




GAME ID: 7884
TIME: 06:00 PM


26TH APRIL

MATCHES HIGHLIGHTS
"1" is HOME WIN "X" is DRAW "2" is AWAY TEAM WIN
The teams in the game are always listed in the order:
GAME ID, HOME TEAM and VISITING TEAM


					PREDICTIONS		
DATE	TIME	GAME ID	GAME		1	X	2
26.04.15	13:00	5799	MALAGA vs DEPORTIVO LC		1.73	3.50	4.65
26.04.15	13:30	3168	ATALANTA vs EMPOLI		2.41	3.10	3.10
26.04.15	13:30	5956	SPARTAK MOSCOW vs RUBIN		2.41	2.85	2.60
26.04.15	15:00	9386	ST. ETIENNE vs MONTPELLIER		1.76	3.46	4.95
26.04.15	15:30	3758	ZWOLLE vs AJAX		2.91	3.31	2.11
26.04.15	15:30	5217	GRONINGEN vs FEYENOORD		4.05	3.64	1.67
26.04.15	15:30	7669	EVERTON vs MANCHESTER UTD		3.43	3.32	2.14
26.04.15	16:00	1070	PARMA vs PALERMO		3.24	3.29	2.23
26.04.15	16:00	3792	ROSTOV vs DINAMO MOSCOW		3.15	2.96	2.02
26.04.15	16:00	4806	TORINO vs JUVENTUS		4.10	3.25	1.97
26.04.15	16:00	7824	LAZIO vs CHIEVO		1.42	4.32	7.91
26.04.15	16:00	9762	GENOA vs CESENA		1.61	3.85	5.62
26.04.15	16:00	9960	VERONA vs SASSUOLO		2.18	3.35	3.30
26.04.15	16:30	2917	PADERBORN vs WERDER		2.63	3.43	2.58
26.04.15	17:45	3678	TWENTE vs AZ ALKMAAR		1.67	3.70	3.96
26.04.15	18:00	6996	ALMERIA vs EIBAR		2.14	3.14	3.40
26.04.15	18:00	7884	ARSENAL vs CHELSEA		2.40	3.19	3.03
26.04.15	18:00	8373	LENS vs MONACO		5.08	3.58	1.71
26.04.15	18:30	8443	B MONCHENGLADBACH vs WOLFSBURG		2.35	3.41	2.93
26.04.15	18:30	8854	ZENIT vs ARSENAL TULA		1.16	4.92	11.57
26.04.15	19:00	5921	FIorentina vs CAGLIARI		1.49	4.42	6.13
26.04.15	20:00	1508	SEVILLA vs RAYO VALLECANO		1.39	4.80	6.46
26.04.15	21:45	9134	NAPOLI vs SAMPDORIA		1.50	4.30	6.17
26.04.15	22:00	4679	REIMS vs LYON		4.57	3.60	1.77
26.04.15	22:00	9463	CELTA VIGO vs REAL MADRID		4.75	4.22	1.58



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KENYAN PREMIER LEAGUE | Ingwe find going tough

Leopards stagger as Tusker bottle points

Kimani scores only goal of the match in brewers' victory at Nyayo Stadium

BY CELLESTINE OILO AND GAETANO PESA
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AFC Leopards succumbed to a 1-0 loss to Tusker in a dull Kenyan Premier League match at the Nyayo National Stadium yesterday.

In Awendo, Sony Sugar thumped Chemelil 3-1.

At Nyayo, Kevin Kimani accounted for the solitary goal, which now sees Tusker rise to third in the league table with 15 points.

The drizzly Nairobi weather ensured a rather slow start for both teams, but it was Ingwe that had the more opportunities through Jacob Keli and Emmanuel Ngama.

The duo tested rookie goalkeeper Farouk Shikalo in quick succession in the opening ten minutes of the match, but the slippery grounds made it difficult for them to hit the target.

In the 21st minute, Kimani guided a lovely free kick to tear through the poorly arranged Leopards wall, soaring beneath Joel Bataro's arms and into the net to condemn Leopards to their second successive defeat.

The second half continued in the same slow pace, but it was the brewers who showed keener intent to score through Kimani, whose work rate for the day was thoroughly impressive.

Leopards were in real danger of conceding a second goal in the 63rd minute when Kimani released another free kick from the outside the

“In every match, the aim is to get three points and I’m happy with the result. I however feel we deserved more from the match considering the number of chances we created”

Francis Kimanzi, Tusker coach

box, but Bataro was more alert this time and punched it out for a corner which proved futile.

Second half substitute Khalid Jumaan almost leveled scores for Ingwe in the 85th minute with a clever flicking of the ball from just outside the box, but unfortunately he placed it off target.

Coach Francis Kimanzi lauded his charges for the three points, although he said that they deserved more from the match.

First home win

“In every match, the aim is to get three points and I am happy with the results. However, I feel like we deserved more from the match considering the number of chances we created,” he said.

In the other match, Andrew Sekayombwa put Sony on the driving seat in the 10th minute but Daniel Mutahi levelled for Chemelil with 18 minutes to go. Sony won the first corner

in the second minute that Meshack Muyonga drilled wide.

Later, Sekayombwa partnered with Angelo Okumu upfront on a counter with the former tapping from close range to break the deadlock.

In the second half, Chemelil coach Mike Mururi opted for Felix Tindi for Hamisi Mwinyi with the changes paying off after Daniel scored an equaliser in the 72nd minute.

At Muhoroni, Western Stima lost 1-0 to Muhoroni Youth.

Skipper Abass Akinyemi scored deep in the first half to hand coach Francis Baraza his first win at home this season.

Stima, who hoped to bounce back from last weekend defeat by Tusker, found themselves in unfamiliar grounds after Akinyemi scored from the spot when Stima defender Muhako fouled Masitsa Masuta in the box just before the break.



FILE | NATION
Tusker winger Kevin Kimani scored in the 21st minute to give the brewers victory over AFC Leopards in a Kenyan Premier League match at the Nyayo Stadium yesterday.

Kenya ‘almost out’ of 2016 Rio Olympics



BY DAVID KWALIMWA
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It will take a miracle for the national Under-23 football team to qualify for the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro.

The team lost again, on this occasion by 3-0, to Botswana in an African Nations Championship-cum-Olympic qualifier at the Lobatse Sports Complex on Friday evening.

This result leaves Kenya on the verge of elimination from both competitions.

The starlets require a win by four clear goals in the return leg match on May 8, to advance to the next stage of the qualifiers.

This four-month-old team lost the tie during an eight minute spell moments after the restart. Two quick fires goals from Kabelo Seakanyeng and Omaatla Kebatho in the 49th and 53rd minutes provided the killer punch.

Forward Joseph Wanyonyi was sent off for an altercation late in the game, before the Young Zebras capped this victory with a fine individual goal from Kebatho with four minutes of regulation time remaining.

“It seems our boys always lose concentration in the later stages of the game. That could be due to fatigue. The technical team needs to address this worrying pattern”

Austin Oduor, former Kenya international

Despite the result, John Njoroge and Collins Shivachi have been singled out for praise on their performances by a section of the Botswana media.

This result comes in the wake of yet another poor result by the same team at the hands of Egypt in the All Africa Games qualifiers last month. Kenya was eliminated from the competition following a 4-1 aggregate defeat.

This outcome also highlights a worrying trend in performances, where coach Bobby Williamson's team maintain a clean sheet in the first half of a match, before collapsing under a flurry of goals in the second stanza.

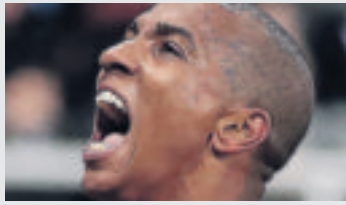
All the goals in Kenya's defeats to Egypt (twice), Morocco and Botswana were scored in the second half.

“Looks like our boys always lose concentration in the later stages of the game. That could be due to fatigue, the technical team need to address this worrying pattern,” former Kenya international, Austin Oduor, said.

The Kenyan cause in this match was also not helped by administrative bungling that resulted in the squad reaching Botswana on the day of the match.

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Young calls for rousing finish from United



Liverpool

Ashley Young (above) says Manchester United will aim to secure second spot in the Premier League with five "cup final" displays in their remaining fixtures.

United are a point behind second-placed Arsenal, who have played one match fewer, but Young is confident Louis van Gaal's third placed side can overtake the Gunners and finish as runners-up behind likely champions Chelsea.

"Everybody is confident in the team that we can finish as high as we can," Young said ahead of United's trip to Everton today.

"Second place is still there for us to take and we just have to win every game now. Every game is a cup final, we have to go out and win." United head to Goodison Park aiming for a response following their 1-0 defeat by Chelsea last weekend.

Van Gaal's team felt they were unlucky not to leave Stamford Bridge with at least a point and Young, 29, says the players will take encouragement from their display against the champions-elect. "We will take the positives out of the Chelsea defeat, when we didn't think we should have been beaten," Young said.

“

Everybody is confident in the team that we can finish as high as we can. Second place is still there for us to take and we just have to win every game now. Every game is a cup final, we have to go out and win”

Ashley Young, Man Utd star

"We had all of the possession and the chances. We felt Chelsea just sat there and obviously they got the goal, but on another day we could have scored two or three goals.

"It's another tough game now — we always have tough games when we play Everton away.

"The fans are close to the pitch and there's a good atmosphere whenever we play there.

"We have got to be right. We want to get back to winning ways and we're going there to win.

"We are going into Sunday's game full of confidence and I'm sure if we play as well as we have done recently, then we will get the win."

Van Gaal is hopeful that Dutch international Daley Blind will be available but Michael Carrick, Marcos Rojo and Phil Jones are ruled out with injury.

Brazilian right-back Rafael, who has made only 11 appearances this season, will miss the remainder of the campaign after suffering broken ribs. (AFP)

BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE | Gunners must win to boost their slim title chances

Big battle at the Emirates arena



Arsenal vs Chelsea
Emirates Stadium, 6pm



Arsenal seek to halt Chelsea's title march when London rivals lock horns this evening

London

Chelsea's trip to Arsenal this Sunday is being billed as a Premier League title decider, but in reality it is likely to have more of a bearing on next season.

With 11 wins and two defeats since the turn of the year, Arsenal have amassed more points per game in 2015 than any other team in Europe's top five leagues, but still they trail Chelsea by 10 points.

Chelsea will be champions if they beat Arsenal and win at Leicester City on Wednesday, but even though defeat today would probably only delay their coronation, it could herald the start of a north London revolt.

Fixtures between Arsene Wenger's Arsenal and Jose Mourinho's Chelsea have traditionally represented a collision of competing ideologies, with Wenger the style-obsessed romantic and Mourinho the cold, hard pragmatist.

While clubs around the world fell over themselves to ape the possession-based approach of Barcelona and Spain during the high point of 'tiki-taka' — emboldening Wenger to cram even more small, technical midfielders into his starting XIs — Mourinho remained true to his counter-attacking convictions. Those principles

were in evidence last weekend when Chelsea beat Manchester United 1-0 despite seeing only 30 percent of the ball. It had been a similar story last October, when Chelsea beat Arsenal 2-0 after enjoying less possession and mustering only five attempts at goal to their opponents' 10.

Wenger reacted to Mourinho's provocations that day by shoving the Portuguese in the chest during a touchline confrontation, and it was not the first time the Chelsea manager has got under the Frenchman's skin. Speaking on Friday, Mourinho declared that Wenger was "not my rival", adding: "He's the manager of a big club in the same city where I work."



“

We know we have passed many tests recently where we were questioned... We have passed many tests and we have another test on Sunday that we want to pass”

Arsene Wenger

With Mesut Ozil (above), Alexis Sanchez, Aaron Ramsey and Santi Cazorla supplying the bullets for Olivier Giroud, Arsenal can still put teams to the sword, as shown by the 4-1 victory over Liverpool.

Mourinho takes swipe at Wenger after defensive jibe

London

Jose Mourinho ramped up his long-running war of words with Arsene Wenger as the Chelsea manager hit back at criticism from his Arsenal counterpart.

Mourinho and Wenger have engaged in numerous verbal jousts during their time as Premier League rivals and there is no sign of any thaw in their frosty relationship ahead of their latest meeting at the Emirates Stadium today. Wenger is unimpressed by the manner of several of Chelsea's recent performances, claiming that "it is easy to defend" as he reflected on the Blues grinding out narrow wins against Manchester United, QPR, Hull and Stoke. That prompted a typically waspish response from Mourinho.

The Portuguese boss, who once angered Wenger by labelling him a "voyeur", mocked Arsenal's surprise Champions League exit against Monaco this season and their manager's lack of a tactical master-plan.

"It's not easy (to defend). If it was easy, you wouldn't lose 3-1 at home to Monaco," Mourinho said. "If he defends well he draws 0-0 against Monaco and wins in Monte Carlo. It's not easy to prepare a team to defend."

Although his caustic criticism of Wenger suggested otherwise, Mourinho insisted he doesn't care how people view his Chelsea team.



ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE
Bid battle at the Emirates arena as Chelsea, Arsenal meet **P.47**



SPORT INSIDE

KPL

TUSKER EDGE OUT BATTLING LEOPARDS

Kimani's early strike gives brewers precious win at Nyayo Stadium **P.46**



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Sunday Nation



POLITICS | Cord leader accuses President of failing to uphold the rule of law

Call fresh polls, Raila urges Uhuru

Going back to the ballot is the only way of saving Kenya from total collapse, says Cord leader

BY ELVIS ONDIEKI

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Cord yesterday asked President Kenyatta to call a fresh General Election "to save Kenya from total collapse".

Its leader Raila Odinga said the crippling of the anti-corruption commission following Mr Kenyatta's purge of suspected corrupt officials shows that the government has become dysfunctional right from the top.

An overhaul, Mr Odinga said, is the only way of saving Kenya.

"The President needs to seriously consider calling fresh elections to save our country from total collapse," he said in a statement. "Our national system has collapsed in every sense."

The Opposition leader said the integrity question that lingered about Jubilee leadership before the March 4, 2013 General Election has resurfaced.

"We are back to the integrity issues that came up during the campaigns: a leadership demanding of others to observe integrity provisions that the President and his deputy failed to observe from the start," he said.



FILE | NATION

Cord leader Raila Odinga, Kisumu County Senator Anyang Nyong'o (right) and a other local leaders outside Kisumu County Assembly after holding a closed door meeting on Wednesday.

"The government is dysfunctional because the top leadership did not believe in the new Constitution and does not believe in the rule of law," he said.

"The decision to ignore procedures, including the law and institutional arrangements, was meant to cripple the war on corruption rather than support it."

The former Prime Minister accused the President of hatching a plot to protect corrupt govern-

ment officials on the pretext of leading the war on corruption.

He said the events that have unfolded since Mr Kenyatta's March 26 State of the Nation address reveal an all-too-familiar cycle of the country's leadership abetting corruption while pretending to fight it.

"We can see clearly that the President has embarked on a familiar rhetorical warfare similar to that of the "war on magendo" of

the 1980s that only left magendo thriving," he said.

"The President's action was similar to Narc's much hyped zero-tolerance to corruption and "radical surgery of the Judiciary" that ended up with the Anglo-Leasing scandal right at the heart of the administration."

In his address to Parliament, President Kenyatta ordered government officials who had been linked to corruption to step aside for investigations.

Following the order and the release of names of officials suspected to have engaged in corrupt deals by the anti-graft body, four Cabinet secretaries and Nairobi Senator Mike Sonko were among officials who stepped aside to pave way for investigations.

But the "List of Shame" also hit the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission, with its commissioner Jane Onsongo resigning unexpectedly on March 31.

The President recently suspended commission chairman Mumo Matemu and deputy Irene Keino after Parliament asked him to set up a tribunal to investigate them. Mr Odinga believes the narrative unfolded so because the President had politicised the war on corruption.

HEARTSTRINGS ENTERTAINMENT

PRESENTS

Kenyans PLEASE step aside

A rib-dismantling original comedy play

Are you the log on the fireside or the log in the fire?

Date
April 29, 30, May 1, 2, 3, 2015

Venue
Alliance Française

Time
6.30pm Weekdays
3 & 6.30 pm Weekend

Directed by
Sammy Mwangi
Assisted by Ndeng'a

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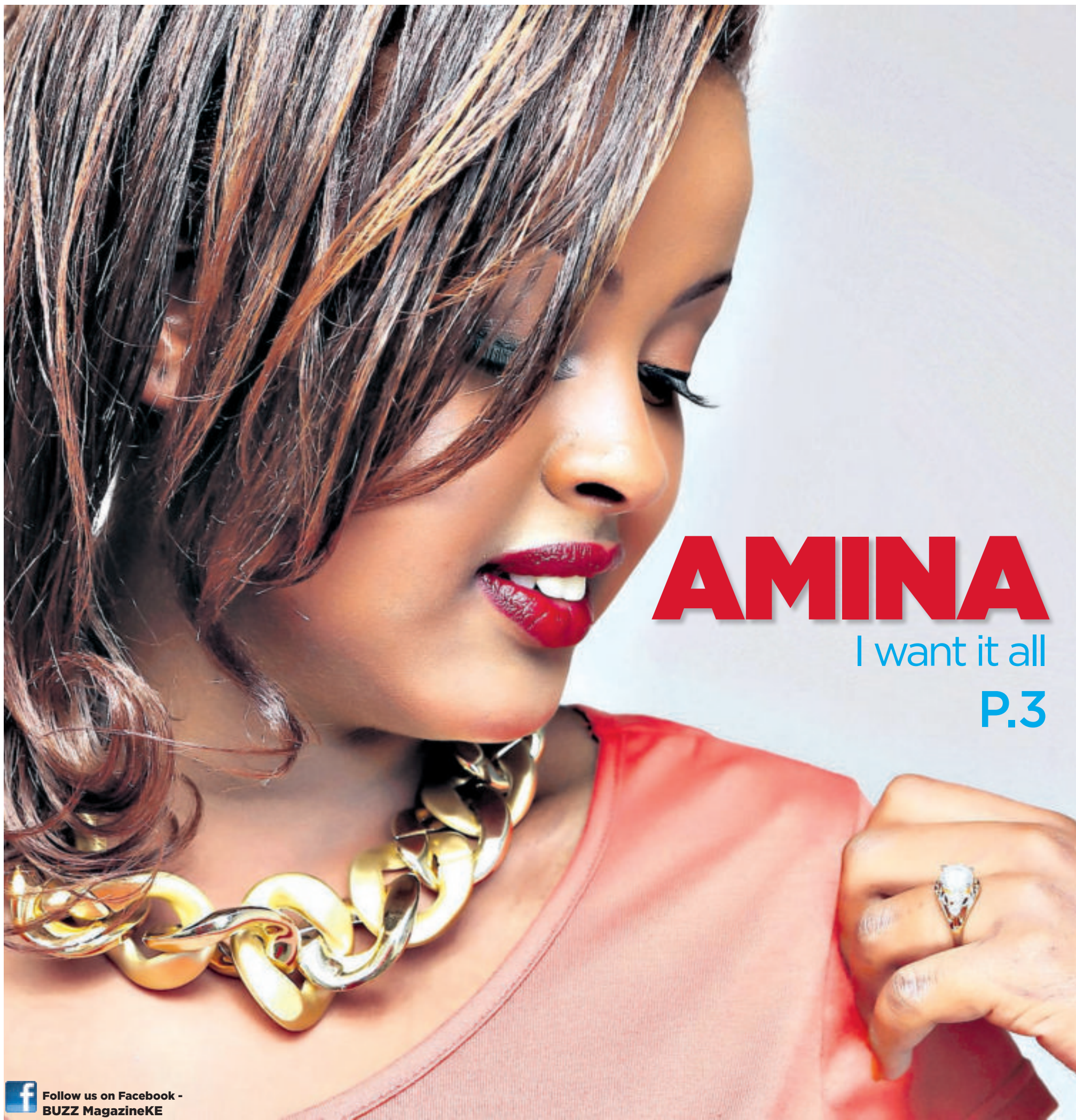
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Centre stage
Showbiz
unity:
Does it work?
P.4



FREE WITH YOUR SUNDAY NATION. No. 243 April 26, 2015



AMINA

I want it all

P.3



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GIG GUIDE TONIGHT: JOIN DJ NIJO IN THE WEEKLY SUNDAY CRUIZ AT THE SAILORS LOUNGE, HURLINGHAM. ENJOY THE BEST MIX OF SOUL MUSIC ALL NIGHT LONG.

Groove picks nominees as it marks 10 years in gospel scene



Nominees for the 10th edition of the gospel music award show, Groove Awards, have officially been announced. The show, which is celebrating 10 years as the longest standing award show in Kenya, has been instrumental in promoting gospel musicians, writers and industry players who have contributed to the gospel music industry.

A total of 31 categories were nominated, 26 of those being voting categories. The remaining five categories will be judged by a panel of diverse judges who will then decide the winners.

This year's nomination list was devoid of the usual gospel celebrities who in previous years were almost a permanent fixture. Daddy Owen, Mbuvi, Citizen's *Rauka* show and Jimmy Gait were not nominated. However, relatively new entrants into the gospel music scene, Size 8 and Lady Bee, were nominated in the Female Artiste of the Year and Collabo of the Year categories, respectively.

At the same time, new categories were added to make certain that the show covers more artistes and to ensure that it does not continue to "box in" new categories in groups that were formed 10 years ago.

Some of the categories added include Afro Pop Song of the Year and G10 Talent to Watch. Over the years, more dance groups have emerged, which prompted the organisers to change the dance category to dance performances. Dancers are now

required to document their performances and use them as entries to the awards.

The category New Talent of the Year has also been introduced for those who support the ministry in their own unique style, such as hype-men.

The changes made are in an effort to stay relevant and help along the show's evolving process. County categories have also been grouped together. Groove Awards has been touted as the leading award show in the music industry, which has provided a unique platform that has seen gospel artistes blossom.

Meanwhile, warring gospel stars Bahati and Willy Paul, who were embroiled in controversy over ownership of a song, will battle it out in the Male Artiste of the Year and Video of the Year categories.

Bahati offered a public apology during the nomination night and asked fans to pull down any negative comments involving Willy Paul and his mother.

"I believe God is happy when his children live in peace; mistakes were made but no one is perfect and I personally forgave Willy Paul when I pulled down my Facebook comments. I know Willy Paul was hurt, too, so I ask that he forgives me," he said.

Willy Paul reiterated that they had already forgiven each other and it was water under the bridge. "People know me as a restless character but Bahati has asked me to forgive him and I have done so," he said.



Diamond to host Zari in 'All White Party'

Tanzanian star Diamond Platnumz will be hosting his Ugandan socialite girlfriend Zari Hassan in Dar es Salaam this Friday, May 1. Diamond's entertainment company Wasafi will be having the All-White Party at Dar's Mlimani City Mall and their main guest will be Zari, who is based in South Africa. Last December, Zari had the same kind of party in Kampala's Guvnor Lounge.

"After Dar es Salaam, we shall be coming to a city near you all over Africa," said Sallam Sharaff, one of Diamond's managers.



Abbi set to revive Zilizopendwa music

Afro-fusion star Abbi Nyinza is set to relaunch the popular *Zilizopendwa* music. The first song set to be launched this week, May 2, is one of Daudi Kabaka's songs *Pole Musa*. Abbi is working with Danish producer Claus Seest, singer V-Qee and Rueben Kabaka, also known as Daudi Kabaka Jnr. This will be the first of many songs Abbi will be doing in the next one year, he said. He will also be working with rapper Kibby on this project. Abbi had taken a break for a few years after releasing three albums.



FBI Dancers need help in international competition

Popular dance group FBI Dancers have been invited to represent Kenya in the World Hip-hop International competitions in San Diego, California.

The annual competition brings together dancers from all over the world, but for the first time ever

Africa has been included in this year's event.

However, the dancers need help from the government and other well-wishers, since they are supposed to fund their own trip. "We need about 25 dancers to represent Kenya in the competitions, but we have to

cater for our transport and accommodation while in the US," said Ezra, FBI's head dancer. "This can be made easier if the government or other well-wishers can help us get there, since we will be flying the Kenyan flag high." The competitions will take place in August.

MCSK bigwigs kicked out in elections

Music Copyright Society of Kenya's chairman Michael Njihia Maganzo and Nairobi's regional director CDM Kiratu were among the big losers in the regional directors' elections held on Tuesday.

Maganzo, who was the chairman of MCSK's board of directors and central regional director at the same time, was fighting to retain his seat but lost to SK. CDM Kiratu, a veteran musician, has been on the board for a long time. He lost the Nairobi regional director seat to Henry Njenga, popularly known as Mwalimu wa Jane.

Albert Gacheru retained his seat as Nairobi regional director. Although Gacheru was already a director, Mwalimu is a newcomer to the board.

Popular names like Frasha of P Unit, as well as singer Lady B, lost in the elections, arguably the biggest in MCSK history.

By Friday, the official MCSK website and their social media pages were yet to publish the official list of winners of the elections that were done in different regions in Kenya.

But an insider at the MCSK office told *Showbuzz* that Maganzo had been voted out, though there were issues with the Nairobi region elections.

"Someone has gone to court to challenge the elections; so it seems the final decision will come

from the courts," said the source, who requested anonymity since they are not authorised to speak on behalf of the chief executive.



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buzz

GIG GUIDE WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29: SOUTH SUDANESE ARTISTE SILVER X WILL LAUNCHING HIS NEW VIDEO 'EAST AFRICAN LOVER' AT FLORIDA 2000 CLUB, MOI AVENUE. THE EVENT FEATURES KENRAZY, V-SITA, RENEE, AMONG OTHERS, FROM 9PM TILL LATE.

Presenter Amina Abdi has risen to be one of the most dominant voices on Kenyan radio today. But this occasional singer is not content with radio, she is trying her hand at TV and any other profitable project that may come her way. She spoke to **GEORGE OMONDI** on motherhood, being a wife and taking over the media.

ONEONONE



10 random stuff about Amina you probably didn't know

1. I talk to myself a lot, but that's because I need expert advice!
2. I love Game of Thrones and Empire.
3. I have terrible road rage.
4. I'm a great cook. I joke, that's one of the reasons John fell in love with me.
5. I hate all insects, why did Noah save them?
6. I'm a speed junkie, I do love speed.
7. I'm a hopeless romantic who tears up if the movie is emotional.
8. I'm brutally honest; I don't sugar-coat anything.
9. I went to Kenya High School. Hated it, but it is a good school.
10. I tried out for Tusker Project Fame the same year as Patricia Kihoro, but didn't make it through because of my Islamic faith.

I settled down early in my career, and got everything sorted out. With the perfect man by my side and a little angel to complete our family, the world is mine for the taking. Maybe that's why I'm giggling so much — because I'm focused. I have no distractions.

You are a talented singer. Is music part of the package, or it isn't your main focus?

Music is fun. More like a hobby for me. I hoped to take it a bit more seriously this year, so let's see how these next few months will pan out.

Let us talk about the DJ CK "Focus" tweet. On a normal day, how would you reply to that?

Haha! Let's just say if I responded like Amina would on a regular day, I'd be jobless.

Do you have personalities you look up to on radio?

Caroline Mutoko. Tina Koroso from Radio Maisha is also really good. But from an administrative point, it has to be my boss Somo.

What's next for Amina?

Hopefully more permanent roles on TV. I'll still be on radio though. But, the world is my oyster; let's see what it has to offer next.

What was your first reaction when you got the call to join Capital FM?

I was shocked! I couldn't believe it actually. There I was, this Borana girl from Eastlands who had a show at Homeboyz Radio getting a call from Chris Kirubi (My dad's not a billionaire, but my boss is!) who thought I would be perfect for one of the biggest shows on the station... it was humbling.

Were you nervous? Since a lot is expected from a 'Hits Not Homework' presenter.

Actually, I wasn't nervous; I believed I was up to the task.

Anyone who fills the slot always gets compared with Eve D'Souza; do you ever feel the pressure?

I get fantastic reviews from listeners, colleagues and my boss, and that makes me confident in bringing out 'Amina'.

I'm not saying I'm perfect, but I do try. Eve definitely left her mark on the industry and I'm trying to put in that extra effort to leave mine. And I can say; so far, so good.

What do you do to ensure that you carry on the tradition?

I can't say there's a tradition per se. I mean, before I took over the show, social media wasn't as heavily integrated on the show, topics weren't as controversial, promotions were done differently, the industry wasn't as competitive, hence I have to bring my 'A' game. We have to change things up and make them current enough for listeners to remain glued to the show. That said, I can't follow any tradition, but I still do chit-chat and the Top 9 at 9, which has been done for the past 10 years.

You seem to have packaged yourself differently from other presenters. Amina seems to be all over the place now: TV, music, voice-overs, radio, acting... how do you balance these?

When you want the money and success as badly as I do, trust me you will find the balance. They say the average millionaire has seven side hustles; you've only mentioned five, meaning I'm lagging behind. I'm an ambitious go-getter who hates idling around, hence the many side gigs.

Everyone has a forte, is yours TV or radio, or is it music?

I am passionate and talented in many fields. I have simply refused to be put in a box. I want to exploit my full potential. That said, I love TV.

Does it feel different working at Capital FM when you are married to the Homeboyz Radio boss?

Not at all, actually he encourages me to work and push even harder each day. I thank the heavens for him.

Let's talk family. How is it being a mum? Is it hard juggling with work?

Being a mum is the most amazing feeling in the world. I should have had a baby sooner. I credit all my blessings to my little munchkin.

Has parenthood changed your perception of things?

Definitely, I have no patience for irrelevant people and things in my life anymore. I even have a rule — If it's not making me money, better or happy, I have no time for it. All I want to do is work hard for my family, and spend as much time with them as possible. That's all.

You are married to DJ John. How is marriage life?

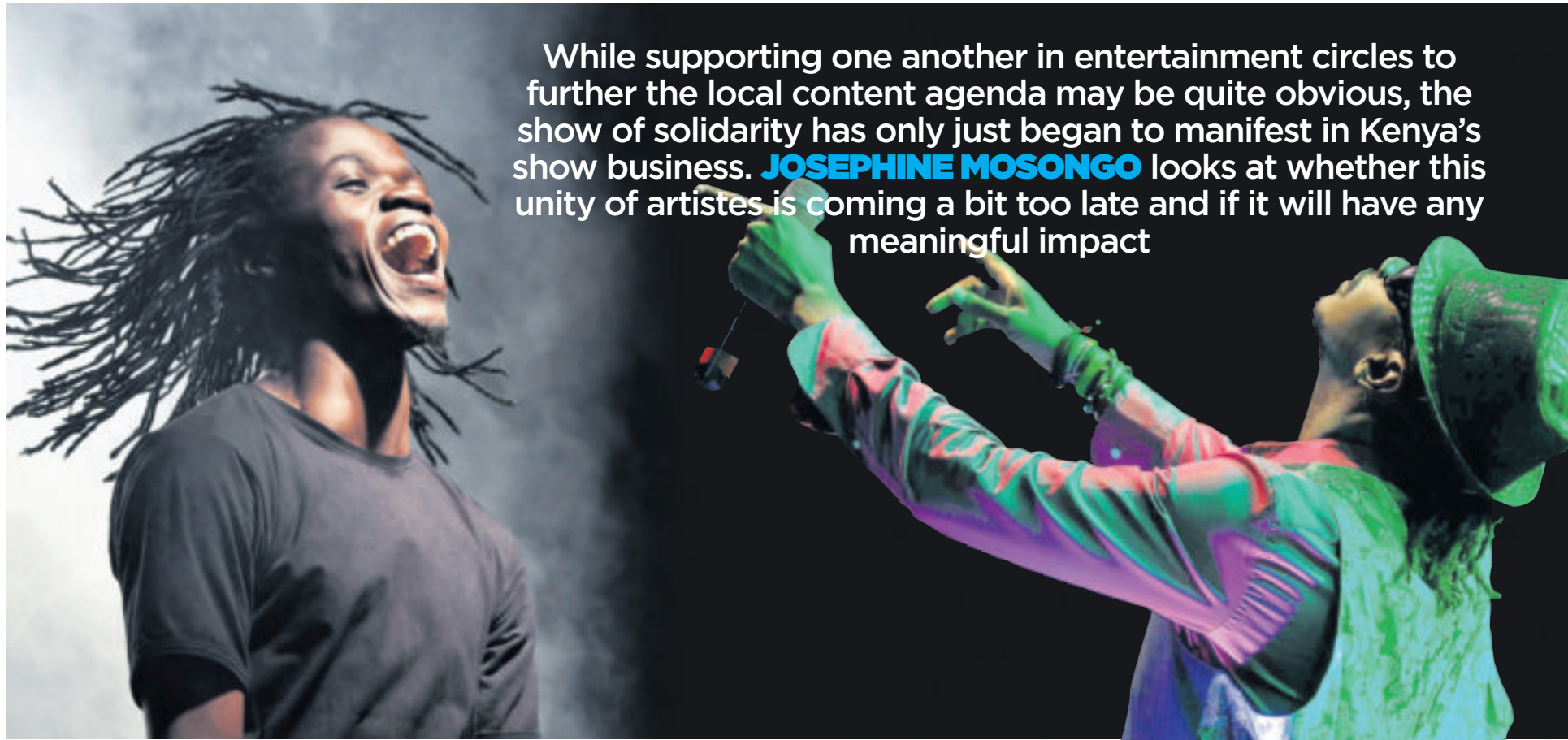
It's great. I'm particularly happy



Queen of all trades

buzz

TOP 5 RNB 1. ALL OF ME - JOHN LEGEND 2. FANCY - IGGY AZALEA FEATURING CHARLI XCX 3. HAPPY - PHARRELL WILLIAMS 4. TALK DIRTY - JASON DARULO FEAT 2 CHAINS 5. LOVE NEVER FELT SO GOOD - MICHAEL JACKSON & JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE



CENTRESTAGE

While supporting one another in entertainment circles to further the local content agenda may be quite obvious, the show of solidarity has only just began to manifest in Kenya's show business. **JOSEPHINE MOSONGO** looks at whether this unity of artistes is coming a bit too late and if it will have any meaningful impact

For years now, the conversation surrounding the Kenyan music industry has been that it has constantly lagged behind, compared with our East, West and Southern African counterparts, never mind that they almost began at the same time.

Time and again, it has been argued that it is neither creative enough, nor diverse enough to cater for a market outside Kenya. But most importantly, it has been claimed that Kenyan artistes do not support each other.

The Kenyan music industry has undoubtedly made significant strides as compared with the early 90s when such music was just a hobby and was barely heard on radio. Still, the rate at which Tanzania's and Uganda's music scenes have flourished and defined African culture makes Kenya's industry dim in comparison.

The biggest reason for our neighbouring countries' success, it seems, is that their artistes are, or rather seem, united. They support each other's careers and present a united front. It has taken a long while for Kenyan artistes to jump onto that bandwagon, but steadily the support for each other's work, be it in dropping in a single or launching an album, is starting to show.

Artistes are drumming up support for each other on social media when launching projects such as upcoming albums, or announcing the release of hot singles. Concert dates and venues are shared across all major platforms, with fans in high anticipation of what could be epic and memorable live shows.

But is it a case of doing too little too late, considering the "Nigerian invasion" is at an all-time high? Will coming together to make more and better music ensure that Kenyan fans have enough content to deter them from, or at least lessening, the high intake of Kwaito, Nigerian and Western music?

Last month, rapper Rabbit launched his album *Legend of Kaka* in an impressive star-studded event that many artistes, including comedians and actors, attended. The launch brought together some key players in the entertainment industry to celebrate an important milestone and achievement in Rabbit's

SHOWBIZ UNITY: DOES IT WORK?

remarkable career. They came to support "one of their own."

Artistes at the launch included Nameless, rapper Abbass Kubaff, singers Avril and Habida, femcee Shikow Femi One, Wyre, Khaligraph, Kristoff, Sudi Boy, Rich Mavoko and Mr Lenny. Actors and comedians included Abel Mutua, Catherine Kamau, Owago Nyiro and radio presenter Jalang'o.

And at Juliani's Na3 Concert last weekend, the celebrity and artiste turnout was overwhelming: Larry Madowo, Holy Dave, Sauti Sol, Size 8, Lady B, Ecko Dydda, Rabbit, Daddy Owen, Wahu, Nameless and DJ Pinye, among others.

Rabbit says this support was a long time coming and it's a fact that unity is needed in entertainment circles, especially in music, to stretch its limits.

"New-age musicians have discovered we can go far if we are united. Some of us are friends and we, as an industry, have matured. It doesn't mean that you will outshine another artiste if you show up at his concert or gig," he says.

Rabbit emphasises that there is space for each and every artiste, considering the growing number of genres and unique styles, so supporting each other should not be that difficult.

"The more you do music the more you realise that nobody can do it the way you do. My product can never be the same as, say, Juliani's, and vice versa. I bought tickets to his show the other day and bought his album too; he did the same for me. My music can never invade his space and neither can mine invade his," the

rapper says.

As much as supporting each other is noble and beneficial to musicians' careers, is it a ploy to edge out Nigerian playlists from clubs, radio and television? "It is an automatic aim because the amount of non-Kenyan music consumed shows that we need to unite further," Rabbit confirms.

But Rabbit has a bone to pick with the media; he says they are both the problem and the solution.

"I will keep pointing fingers at the media until the message is conveyed. It is the media and DJs that poison everyone. For example, the quality of Kenyan videos has gone way up, and if they are not playing them, then no one is watching. Play Kenyan music," says the rapper.

Pioneer disc jockey DJ Pinye agrees that, yes, artistes are supporting each other... but on the flip side, they have to because they are not doing very well. He attributes the lackluster performance to big egos, with artistes refusing to talk to each other.

He says that for artistes to further show a sign of unity, more concerts should be organised.

"There are not enough concerts for Kenyan musicians to go around. But then, the logistics of organising just a single show are very high, and this is where corporates need to come in and offer sup-

port to artistes," says Pinye.

He said DJs were getting more shows compared with artistes. So, shouldn't this ensure that DJs play exclusive Kenyan music as a show of solidarity?

"Kenyan artistes need to meet and match the standards of international artistes. Personally, I play music for fans to dance to, whatever their requests are," he says.

It is not just musicians that are striving to give local content to the entertainment industry a push forward through showing up for events or drumming up support for important milestones. Comedians, too, are attending their peers' events.

Comedian Mc Jesse affirms that support from artistes is now high since genuine friendships are being formed and little spats that become beef are almost no longer an issue.

"Comedians have always been united, attending each other's shows or parties, and they stick together," says Jesse.

"Why should we have beef just because we work for different stations? We are one big family and we don't segregate each other because of the stations we work in; all we have to offer is love and laughter," he says, adding that comedians support each other more than musicians do.

"I never knew that someone so significant was watching. We love to support musicians and they love us, too. Someone like Jaguar never misses a show, and other artistes come to the show not to perform but to enjoy it, they are reciprocating the love, he says.

The Churchill Raw comedian quips that comedians do not do Nigerian stuff, but musicians have allowed Nigerians to take over the music scene.

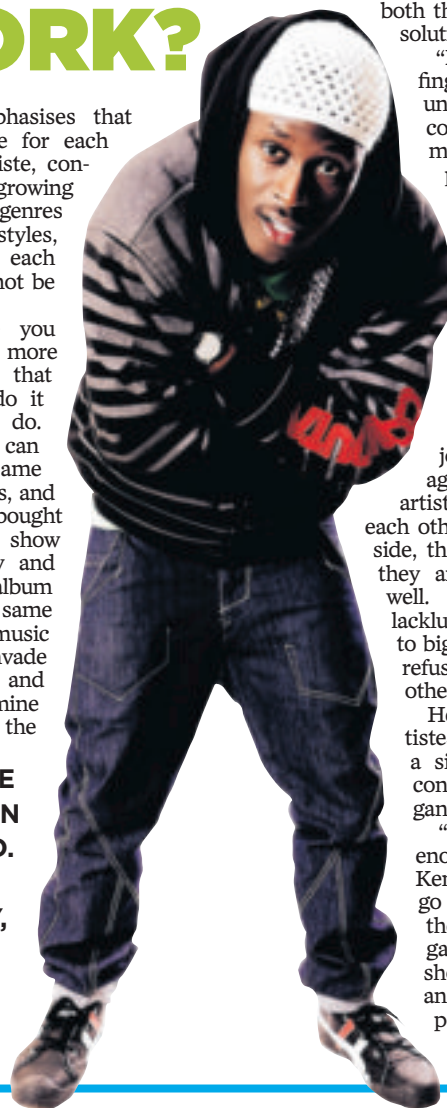
He says he does not trust them because they are egocentric, something Kenyans see as hard work.

"They only have this 'I' mentality; remember what Iyanya did to Jaguar with the remix to One Centimeter? A comedian from there who comes for a show in Kenya will never say he met Mc Jesse or Churchill, he will say I was funny and I made them laugh," says Jesse.

@jmmosongo

NEW AGE MUSICIANS HAVE DISCOVERED THAT WE CAN GO FAR IF WE ARE UNITED. SOME OF US ARE FRIENDS AND WE, AS AN INDUSTRY, HAVE MATURED,"

Rapper Rabbit



buzz

TOP 5 BOX OFFICE 1. X-MEN: DAYS OF FUTURE PAST 2. GODZILLA 3. BLENDED 4. NEIGHBORS 5. THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 2



CHARLES KAMAU | NATION

OURPIX

Groove Awards nomination night



1. Singers Josh and Amos at this year's Groove Awards nomination night at the Arboretum, Nairobi.
2. Lady B introduces nominees as she shares her testimony.
3. Kambua was the show host. 4. Gospel artistes (from left) MOG's Boss, Shame Sharrazi, DM Man Mkare and Erick One-wash.
5. H_art the band
6. Local actresses Ida Wanyoike aka Olive (left), Catherine Kamau aka Celina (centre) and Jackie Mwangi.





WEEKDAYS 7:00PM






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turning on your world

GIG GUIDE TUESDAYS: THE WEEKLY WAKILISHA EAST AFRICA SHOW IS ON EVERY TUESDAY AT THE TRIBEKA CLUB, BANDA STREET. YOUR HOSTS ARE MZAZI WILLY M TUVA, FUNDI FRANK AND DJ FLASH. PARTY STARTS AT 7PM.

FASHIONFIX

MEN OF
Style

with WAMBUI KIBUE

As the saying goes, “You can buy fashion, but you can’t buy style.” We’ve heard this phrase time and again that it’s somewhat ingrained into the deepest parts of our minds. Fashion is determined by the world, style by an individual. Style is an expression of self. It’s something you instinctively have or have to learn.

Style comes from knowing who you are and who you want to be in the world; it does not come from wanting to be somebody else. A man with style is an individual; he stands out, with the confidence to go against the grain and without a care for what other people think. He doesn’t follow fashion and trends, he sets them.

He is never “styled”; he exudes style, effortlessly dressing the appropriate way for the occasion and would be as elegant and stylish in jeans and a T-shirt as he would be in a suit. Meet Nairobi’s men of style...

Marek Fuchs manages Kenya’s afro-pop band Sauti Sol and is engaged to style star Annabel Onyango, a best dressed-list regular. Always looking effortlessly dapper, his style staples are slim fit pants paired with a waist coat or blazer. Straying away from the expected, Marek embraces colour and is an accessory lover. My favourite piece, the 5-inch Maasai cuff he is often seen wearing to compliment his rolled up shirt sleeves.

Emmanuel Jambo is the official photographer of President Uhuru Kenyatta, the most sought-after photographer in the region and was recognised by *Forbes Magazine Africa* in 2012 as one of the most influential photographers in Africa. A fan of Kenyan designer Kaveke, Emmanuel’s style is classic, effortless and involves great attention to detail. His style staples include V-neck tees and scarfs, slim fit suits paired with suspenders and the occasional hat and bow tie.

Frankie, ‘the Kenyan stylist’ As Kenya’s leading male blogger and ambassador to Millie Collines, Frankie has loved fashion from childhood. He describes his style as classy with a modern touch and very distinct. He is always dressed up, whether he is in a T-shirt and jeans or a three-piece suit, and is the perfect definition of living and breathing fashion. Taking his love of fashion a step further, he recently debuted his bespoke suit line Kenyan Stylista. His style staples are horn-rimmed glasses and wide-brimmed fedoras.

Sauti Sol, as Kenya’s number one afro-pop band, their résumé also includes style trail blazers. They pioneered the African print shirt and blazer look early in their career, with pieces from designers Patricia Mbela and later Nick Ondu. The award winning group, whose music is now international, is always exceptionally dressed, both in the streets and on stage. The perfect combination of gentleman and playboy with a dash of edge, their style staples include tailored suits, leather jackets and multiple accessories.

Whose style are you most loving?
Have a great week, beautiful people.

@MissAngelsmile

Clockwise from left: Frankie, Bien from Sauti Sol, Marek Fuchs and Emmanuel Jambo
PHOTOS | CHARLES KAMAU

Free with Sunday Nation



Sunday Nation April 26, 2015

young nation

Top pupil inspires Nairobi slum school

At Cheleta Primary School in Nairobi County, Jane Njeri Wanyoike is not an ordinary old pupil – she is an inspiration. The 13-year-old girl holds the record for scoring the highest marks ever at the school in the end of primary school examinations. Last year, Jane emerged tops at the school in the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education examinations scoring 415 marks out of a possible 500 marks. She has since joined Limuru Girls High School, which is a national school.

PAGE 3 >>

PHOTO | COURTESY

Jane Njeri Wanyoike, who is inspiring pupils at her former school, Cheleta Primary School.

Page 2
Birthdays



Page 2
Linda...



Page 4
Did You Know?



Page 4
Sara...





birthday wishes



ANDY H.
OPENDA

At two years, you're twice as adorable and precious as you were a year ago. You have brought us unending joy. Happy second birthday son. May you grow to be an outstanding gentleman. Best wishes from dad Benard, mum Janoh, uncles, aunts and grandparents.

It's the seventh birthday for you! Words can't explain how much you mean to us. You have given us all reasons to face the future, and to appreciate the gift of life. Best wishes from sister Tasha Ndung'u, mum Mapenzi Chivila, dad Evans Gichuru, grandparents, uncles and aunts.



LINDSEY NDUTA
NDUNG'U



EDDIE ITUGU
MUCHINA

Happy birthday Eddie as you turn three. It has been a great joy having you. Wishing you God's blessings and may you live to blow 1001 candles. Wishes from parents Frederick and Mercy Muchina, bro Kariuki, sis Njeri, the Itugus, the Wangurus, cousin Myson and friends.

Happy fifth birthday Hussein. May you live to be wise, happy and God-fearing. We love you. Wishes from Jerita, Shanty, Minne, Mwazighe, Mwadime, Kitu and Babuu.



HUSSEIN TSUMA



Happy 12th birthday. Your dad, mum, sister Nicole and all your friends in Khanga Court Buru Buru, wish you a very happy birthday full of God's blessings. We love you.

JOY WANGUI

ZACHARIA NJAU NJOGU

Happy birthday as you turn four. You are a special son and we treasure all the joy you have brought into our lives. May you grow healthy, bright and as a God-fearing person. Wishes from dad Timothy, mum Rukia, brother Adam, grandmas Beth and Rehema, grandpa Mukua, aunts, uncles, nephews, nieces and friends.

Send your birthday messages and photos to Birthday Wishes, Young Nation, P.O. Box 49010, 00100 Nairobi, or email to yn@ke.nationmedia.com

The team

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Children's event coming soon!

WHATS ON...KIDDOZ TALENTS JAMBOREE

Coming on May 2, 2015 at Kenya Cultural Centre, the event promises to nurture the inborn talents of children, discover and train then give them a platform from which they can act, sing, dance, paint and draw, take part in fashion show and modelling. The event targets children aged between three and 14 years. The event aims to promote cohesion among children with an emphasis on good inter-relations upon meeting at social gatherings and events.

Quotes...

1)) The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go.

Dr Seuss

2)) A great book should leave you with many experiences, and slightly exhausted at the end. You live several lives while reading.

William Styron

3)) If you don't have time to read, you don't have the time (or the

tools) to write. Simple as that.

Stephen King

4)) Books serve to show a man that those original thoughts of his aren't very new after all.

Abraham Lincoln

5)) So please, oh please, we beg, we pray, go throw your TV set away. And in its place you can install, a lovely bookshelf on the wall.

Roald Dahl

Children & Law...

KNOW ABOUT THE CHILDREN'S ACT

Examples of some of the provisions contained in the Children's Act are;

- No child shall be subjected to discrimination on the ground of origin, sex, religion, creed, custom, language, opinion, conscience, colour, birth, social, political, economic
- A child shall have a right to live with and to be cared for by his or her parents
- Where a child is separated from his or her family without the leave of the court, the

government shall provide assistance for reunification of the child with his or her

family

- Every child shall be entitled to education, the provision of which shall be the responsibility of the Government and the parents
- Every child shall be entitled to free basic education which shall be compulsory in accordance with article 28 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Every child shall have a right to health and medical care, the provision of which shall be the responsibility of the parents and the Government.

Follow us on our Young Nation Facebook page



pen pals

Faith Atieno, Kisumu Girls High School, P.O. Box 811, Kisumu.

Age: 16, Hobbies: Hiking, dancing, watching movies and playing basketball. Would like pen pals from Mozambique, Sweden, Philippines and India.

Karen Karimi, Chogoria Girls Boarding Primary School, P.O. Box 584, Chogoria. Age: 14, Hobbies:

Dancing, playing basketball, travelling and listening to music.

Would like pen pals from Uganda, South Africa, Australia and Kenya.

Sharon Sintamei, Ole Tipis Girls High School, P.O. Box 177, Narok.

Age: 16, Hobbies: Listening to gospel music, singing, travelling and singing. Would like pen pals from Zambia, South Africa, Canada and Israel.

Saida Simayo, Ole Tipis Girls High School, P.O. Box 177, Narok. Age:

17, Hobbies: Watching wild animals, dancing, travelling and cooking.

Would like pen pals from South Africa, Australia, USA, Canada and South Africa.

Esther Wanjiku, Mariari Girls High School, P.O. Box 2159, Embu. Age:

16, Hobbies: Travelling, dancing, making friends and watching movies. Would like pen pals from Canada, Sweden, Tanzania and South Korea.

Doreen Nduati, Mariari Girls High School, P.O. Box 2159, Embu. Age:

18, Hobbies: Swimming, dancing, reading novels and travelling. Would like pen pals from Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda and Ethiopia.

Saina Wanjiru, Mariari Girls High School, P.O. Box 2159, Embu. Age:

16, Hobbies: Travelling, reading novels, dancing, swimming and playing basketball. Would like pen pals from Australia, France, Kenya and Rwanda.

Doris Oyugi, Itibo Girls High School, P.O. Box 171, Kisii. Age:

16, Hobbies: Watching wild animals, dancing, travelling and watching birds. Would like pen pals from Zanzibar, Ethiopia, USA and Australia.

Send penpal requests with photos to: My penpal, Young Nation, P.O. Box 49010 Nairobi





Top pupil inspires Nairobi slum school

« FROM THE COVER

Today, her story, which is similar to most pupils' at the school, serves as an inspiration and an encouragement that they too can make it. That she overcame poverty to emerge amongst the very best pupils in the country is a constant reminder to the other pupils that academic success is not entirely out of reach.

Some of her former schoolmates we interviewed say Jane has proved to them that there is hope for a brighter future. However, Jane's advice to them is that nothing comes easy and that they must put an effort in their studies as well as in co-curricular activities in school in order for them to excel. "Hard work pays," says an elated Jane, who dreams of becoming a neurosurgeon in future.

Cheleta Primary School is a public school that caters for pupils from Githogoro and Huruma informal settlements that neighbour the posh Runda suburb. Like Jane, many of these children's parents and guardians are labourers in Runda. However, thanks to sheer hard work backed by generous well-wishers, they have been fortunate to access the very best education in the

country.

For her sterling performance, APA Insurance awarded her a scholarship for her secondary education. APA Insurance runs a bursary scheme for bright pupils from needy backgrounds who go to Cheleta Primary School. Every year, the top boy and girl win bursaries for their secondary school education. This year, Jane and 14-year-old Brian Kamau, who scored 379 marks in KCPE and has joined Kiambu High School, were the recipients.

Scholarship award

APA Insurance started the bursary scheme in 2007 through the Runda Youth Sports Association (RYSA), a football club for the youths who live in the neighbouring informal settlements. According to Peter Maina, one of the founders of RYSA who grew up in Githogoro and is an alumnus of Cheleta Primary School, its main aim is to engage youths in sports to distract them from drugs and negative peer pressure in the slums. In addition, it engages youths at an early age to attend school, since there is a high number of school drop-outs in the slums.

The head teacher at Cheleta



Pupils of Cheleta Primary School during assembly recently.

PHOTOS | COURTESY



PHOTO | COURTESY

Cheque Presentation to Jane and Brian by APA Insurance after they performed well in KCPE exams last year.

Primary School, Mr Stanley Mukururo, says the school's performance has improved tremendously ever since the bursary was started. He has headed the school since 2002 when it recorded average marks of only 168.4 marks. Performance has steadily improved to the current average of 245.18. Besides, in 2008, the school won an award for the most improved School in Westlands Division.

"Last year our school had the best KCPE performance ever, with Jane and Brian, who were the top pupils. In total, our school had 12 pupils who scored 300 marks and above," an excited Mr Mukururo says.

He adds: "Our teachers with the support of parents have tremendously improved performance at Cheleta Primary School. Last year,

12 students from this school scored between 300 marks and 415 marks. This was our best performance ever".

Achieve their dreams

So far, APA has supported 19 students through secondary school, including Jane and Brian, who joined this year. "We now have students in various universities in the country, and we are expecting more from last year's KCSE exams. We remain committed to continuing to support these children from disadvantaged backgrounds to access a good education and achieve their dreams," says Michael Oduor, the CEO of APA Insurance.

Many of the recipients of bursaries have gone on to achieve success in different fields. One such beneficiary is Amina Tari, who was a pioneer

recipient in 2007. She was supported through secondary school, college and ultimately, university. She currently works at APA Insurance.

"I am so grateful for the bursary. Without it, I would not be where I am today. I urge APA to continue with the bursary and help children from disadvantaged backgrounds to get proper education and future," says Ms Amina. Thanks to the inspiration from the likes of Jane and Brian and others before them, Mr Mukururo sees a bright future for the school, and indeed the pupils.

"I look forward to seeing each and every pupil of Cheleta Primary School have a bright future. Jane and Brian are the greatest inspiration to the pupils especially those writing their KCPE exams later in the year," he adds.

Young savers take part in tree planting at Karura Forest



PHOTO | COURTESY
Talaan Ainache, Maagan Ainache, Aden Ainache and their dad, Geudi Ainache, Director at I&M Holdings, plant their tree at the I&M Bank Forest in Karura to celebrate the Annual Earth Month that is celebrated on April 22.

Young account holders and their parents joined I&M bank's staff in a tree planting exercise recently to mark Earth Month. The bank aims to fill 25 acres of land with trees at Karura Forest. Communities worldwide

organise a series of environmental activities throughout the month of April as a build up to the Annual Earth day celebrated on April 22. The day aims at raising awareness on environmental conservation.

Speaking at the tree planting event,

I&M CEO Mr Arun Mathur said the bank aims at building the next generation of environmentalists by educating its young savers on the fundamentals of environmental conservation.

"At I&M Bank Ltd we believe that through building sustainable environments, we are able to improve livelihoods of our people, hence mitigate poverty levels in Kenya and Africa as a continent.

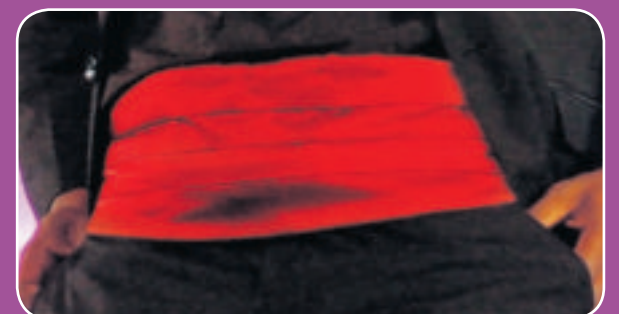
"By involving both the young and old on this tree planting exercise, we are supporting the government's efforts in achieving the Millennium Development Goal number 7 of ensuring environmental sustainability," Mr Mathur added.

Kenya's socio-economic development blueprint, Vision 2030 targets to plant 10 billion trees under the Sustainable and Restoration Programme spearheaded by the ministry of Environment, Water and Natural Resources.

Origin of words/ things/ names

CUMMERBUND

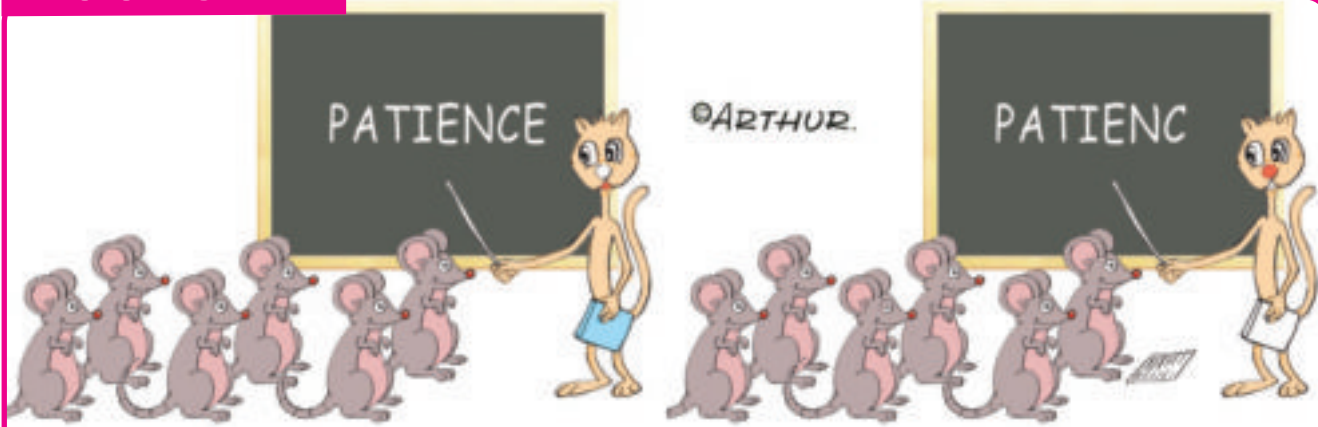
This is a broad, brightly-coloured sash that is pleated lengthwise and worn around the waist by men as part of formal dress as with a dinner jacket. This name has its origins in the Hindi name for the sash, 'kamarband'. The Hindi borrowed the name from the Persian name for the band, 'kamarband'. It is a combination of two words, 'kamar' (waist) and 'bandi' (band). In the past, in southern Asia, including Bangladesh, India and Pakistan, the sash was worn by domestic workers and subordinate office workers. Nowadays, the cummerbund, as stated earlier, is worn to formal functions.



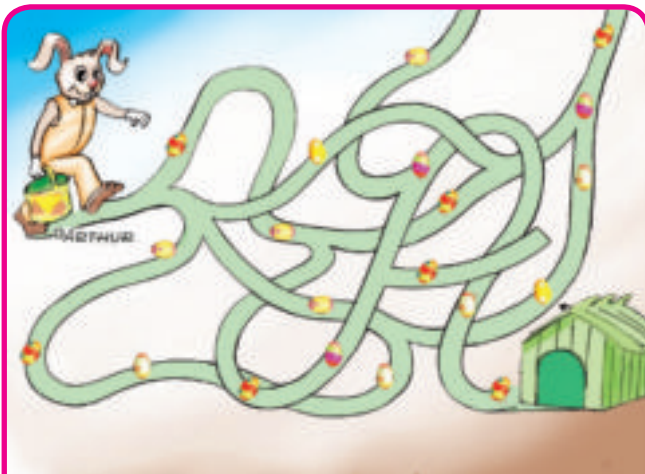
Send your comments to; ckarago@ke.nationmedia.com



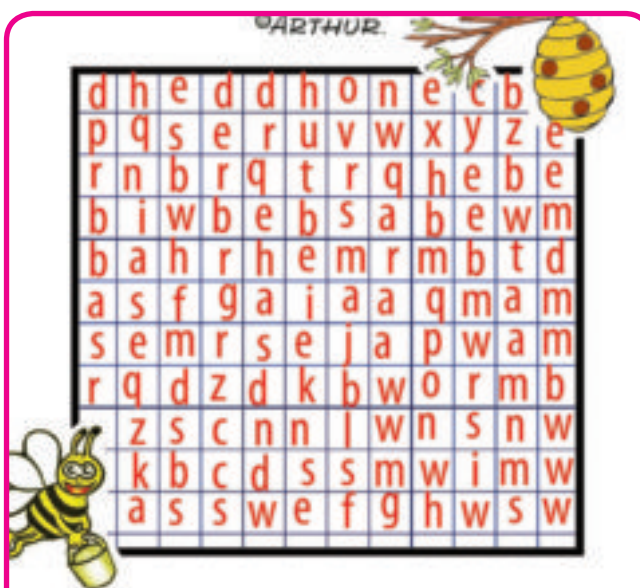
Toons...



Spot the difference



Bunny is going to the green house.
How many eggs will he pick? Follow the right path and discover



Which path did the bee use to get to Bee-hive? Follow the alphabet and discover



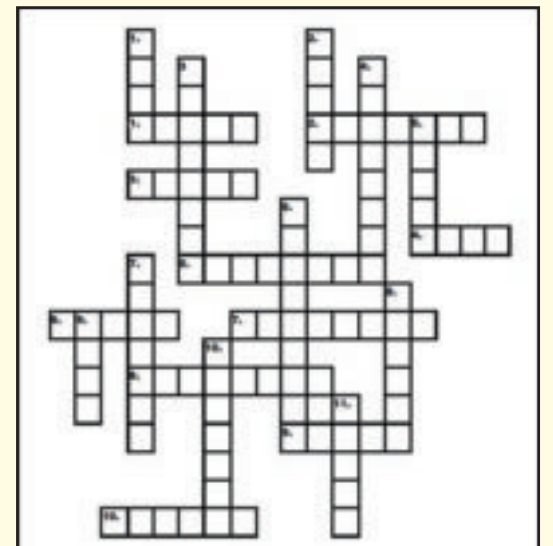
did you know?

CANTOR'S GIANT SOFT SHELL TURTLE IS NAMED AFTER A

Also known as the Asian giant soft shell turtle, Cantor's giant soft shell turtle is named after Danish physician and zoologist Theodore Edward Cantor. An ambush predator, the turtle feeds on crustaceans, mollusks, fish and some aquatic plants. It spends 95 per cent of its life buried and motionless, with only its eyes and mouth protruding from the sand. All that lying around motionless in the mud and sand makes it hard to find. It surfaces only twice a day to take a breath and lays 20-28 eggs between February and March on riverbanks. The turtle is found primarily in inland, slow-moving, freshwater rivers and streams in Cambodia. The turtle is regarded as endangered because of habitat loss and hunting.



crossword



Across:

- A bundle of hay
- _____ is to church building while tower is to castle
- A small amount of sand
- 'To throw _____ in the eyes.' The idiom that means to deceive
- Letters that are added to the end of a word to change the meaning of the word
- _____ is to pipe while electricity is to wires
- The simile, 'as _____ as a swan'
- A person whose profession is to repair and fit motor vehicles
- A person whose profession is to assist a doctor
- The simile, 'as smooth as _____'

Down:

- The sound made by a snake
- A deer-like animal with antlers
- The rulers of ancient Egypt who were like kings
- Letters added in front of a word to change the meaning of the word
- The proverb, 'in for a penny, in for a _____'
- The proverb, '_____ is the sincerest form of flattery'
- A small amount of light
- The sound made by the movement leaves
- 'To draw the _____.' The idiom that means to refuse to exceed a point
- A large cup or goblet used for drinking wine
- A collective term for a large number of cattle

SOLUTIONS ON PAGE 6

easy sudoku

The rules of Sudoku are quite simple. You are presented with a 6x6 grid of boxes, some empty, some filled with numbers in the range of 1 to 6. That gives you 2 rows, 3 columns and also 2 larger squares of 2x3 boxes.

The idea of Sudoku is to completely fill the empty grid squares with numbers in such a way that the following conditions hold true:

- Every row should contain the numbers 1 to 6 but should not repeat the numbers 1 to 6 at any point within that row.
- Every column should contain the numbers 1 to 6 but should not repeat the numbers 1 to 6 at any point within that column.
- Every 2x3 square should contain the numbers 1 to 6 but should not repeat the numbers 1 to 6 at any point within that square.

ANSWERS ON PAGE 6

2	4	1	6	5	3
3	5	6	1	4	2
4	6	2	5	3	1
1	3	5	2	6	4
5	2	3	4	1	6
6	1	4	3	2	5



Machakos...

Pupils plant 147 trees to remember Garissa attack victims

BY STEPHEN MUTHINI

smuthini@ke.nationmedia.com

Teachers and pupils of Kwa Kavoo Primary School in Machakos County last weekend planted 147 trees in memory of the students killed by Al-Shabaab terrorists at the Garissa University College.

The pupils also observed a one-minute silence in honour of the slain students. The tree planting was organised by Mr Henry Carlos Kioko, the Chief Executive of the Berryl Foundation in conjunction with former Nairobi Central Business District association chairman Mr Timothy Muriuki.

Mueni Muasya, a Class Eight pupil at the school, said she was sad when she heard about the news of the students killed in the terror attack.

She said pupils at her school were afraid that the terrorist could come to attack them. "I condole with the relatives of those who were killed in Garissa. We have planted trees at our school so that we can remember them," said Mueni.

Her friend Agnes Mwende, who is also in Class Eight, said the trees will provide shade to pupils in future.

"The sun beats us hard because we don't have many trees in our school. Trees also attract rain and create fresh air," said Mwende.

The names of those killed in Garissa were written in yellow manila papers and displayed on the wall at the school.

Some 147 pupils planted a tree for each one of the victims. The pupils promised to take care of the trees by watering them regularly.

Condole with relatives

Speaking during the tree planting at the school compound, Mr Muriuki said it was a way of showing solidarity with Kenyans in the fight against terrorism and also to condole with the relatives of the deceased. He added that the trees will serve as a reminder of the atrocity against the innocent students.

Mr Muriuki said all Kenyans had been affected as the victims of the attack came from different counties.

"It is important for us to express our feelings and say we will never forget. We will continue fighting terrorism collectively. This is a problem affecting all Kenyans and we



STEPHEN MUTHINI PHOTO

Mueni Muasya, a Class Eight pupil at Kwa Kavoo Primary School in Machakos County, plants a tree to remember the students killed by Al-Shabaab terrorists at the Garissa University College. The pupils planted 147 trees one.

want to make sure that the message sinks," said Mr Muriuki.

He challenged other counties to take up the initiative and plant trees in honour of those killed at the Garissa University.

"It will not be in vain if we have 147 small forests in remembrance of those killed by the Al-Shabaab. The 147 trees indicate that every Kenyan is important and we do not take anybody for granted," said Mr Muriuki.

He said in future Kenyans would pay vigil at the memorial forests to denounce acts of terrorism and reinforce the fight against terrorism.

Mr Kioko said the tree planting was part of the One Million trees initiative which had earlier kicked off at Machakos School in February this year.

The initiative is geared towards planting one million trees in Machakos County in three years in order to raise tree cover to 10 per cent.

Mr Kioko said they had so far planted 4,500 trees, adding that they had over 50,000 seedlings which were ready for planting.

APRIL ISSUE ON THE SHELVES

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Sports...

RANITA: A TENNIS STAR IN THE MAKING

BY FRANKLINE AKHUBULA
frankakhubula@gmail.com

Every Friday at break time, with her parents and teachers permission, Ranita Kaili Mogi leaves her school at Langata Faith School for a one hour tennis training session at Sadili Oval in Langata. The six-year-old has a passion for tennis and is a great fan of world tennis star Serena Williams.

Away from school Ranita spends most of her free time in training to improve her skills. "During this holiday most of my friends have either travelled upcountry or are idle at their homes but for me I spend a lot of time training here. When we open school soon, they will be shocked because I will play much better than them," she says.

For her love of tennis, her parents agreed to sponsor her holiday camp at Sadili during school's holidays so that she could spend much of her time here. Although swimming was initially Ranita's first love, today tennis is her favourite.

"When I started playing tennis, it seems I stopped longing to go swimming or any other sport. Tennis is good because it's an individual sport that one can only



FRANKLINE AKHUBULA | NATION
Ranita Kaili during training at Sadili Oval recently.

become the best through his or her efforts. Sometimes when you are doing team sports, some members may disappoint by not playing well but for tennis your efforts speak for you," says Ranita.

When she started playing tennis a few months ago, Ranita had problems with ball control and the use of the net. "Coach Richard Ooko, who is my trainer, has been

quite helpful. He has taught me many things during this short period I have been training with him. I have improved on backhand, forehand and raindrop styles which used to give me a headache when I started," adds Ranita.

Her coach offers: "It's true that the little girl has improved a lot. She has an interest in the sport

which is crucial for any person who wants to play tennis. Over the holidays, Ranita has been able to practise a lot and I believe come next term she will give her competitors a run for their money."

So how did she develop an interest in tennis? "One day while watching sports news on TV, I was impressed by Serena Williams. She played so well and won. I found the sport interesting. I talked to my parents about it, and asked if I too could start playing tennis. That's how they enrolled me for training at Sadili Oval. I hope to become a professional tennis player in future," says Ranita.

Her advice to young people is to follow their hearts and play whatever sport that interests them. And for young people who would like to start playing tennis? "Tennis is an interesting sport which is not hard to play. You only need to train well and listen to your coaches because if you don't follow instructions, you can't make it," she says.

She concludes: "When I grow up, I would like to do well in tennis, become a professional and represent Kenya in both national and international tennis tournaments," says Ranita.

CROSSWORD

ANSWERS

Across:

1. Stack 2. Steeple 3. Grain
4. Dust 5. Suffixes
6. Fluid 7. Graceful 8. Mechanic 9. Nurse 10. Velvet

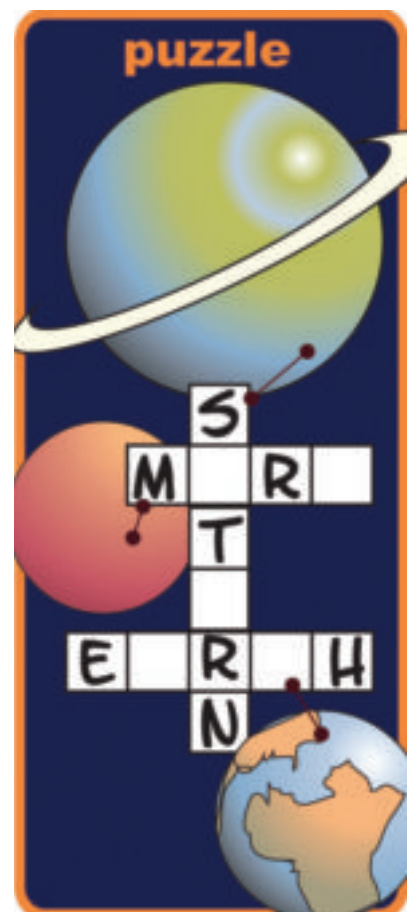
Down:

1. Hiss 2. Moose 3. Pharaohs
4. Prefixes 5. Pound 6. Imitation
7. Glimmer 8. Rustle 9. Line
10. Chalice 11. Drove

SUDOKU

SOLUTION

	4			5	
			1		2
				3	
1			2		
		3		1	
					5



**A SLOW DRIVE
TO THE COAST
AND BACK**

PAGE 5



Extending the life
of your clothes one
stitch at a time

PAGE 8

SUNDAY NATION FREEWITH YOUR SUNDAY NATION. April 26, 2015

lifestyle



33-year-old Emma Nyambura led the team that coordinated transfer of servers across three continents Pg 6-7

**The woman
who brought
M-Pesa home**

top stories

that's a crime too

Charged over 'killing' of his computer



A frustrated computer user in the US has been given a ticket after "killing" his home computer. *Sky News* reports that 37-year-old Lucas Hinch was given the citation by police for discharging a weapon within city limits after he took his PC into an alley and shot it eight times. Colorado Springs Police Lieutenant Jeff Strossner said Lucas told him he had been fighting his computer for months before deciding to exact revenge and execute it. Lucas accepted the ticket and told Jeff that he had no idea that he had committed an offence. The penalty for his actions will be decided by a judge. It is not thought Lucas' computer survived the attack.

weird banking

140 coins from stomach

An Indian farmer with a stomachache ended up having hundreds of coins, nails and several other objects removed from his belly, the *Huffington Post* writes. Rajpal Singh, 34, from Bathinda in India's western state of Punjab, went to a hospital because of the pain last Wednesday, according to Caters photo agency. An endoscopy – a nonsurgical procedure used to examine a person's digestive tract – revealed hundreds of objects inside Rajpal's stomach. In two operations, one on Wednesday and one on Saturday, a team of doctors at R Gagan Gastrocare hospital, led by Dr Gandeep Goyal, operated on Rajpal for more than nine hours. They removed 140 coins, 150 nails and a handful of nuts, bolts and batteries from his stomach. Rajpal tells Caters: "I used to gulp down coins and metals with fruit juice or milk. Due to family problems I had slipped into depression and got hooked into this weird habit".



Zipporah Mbese Wandera

Zipporah Wandera, a former powerful and controversial Nairobi City Council town clerk, died last Sunday evening at the Nairobi Women's Hospital where she had been taken for medical attention. Mrs Wandera had a law degree from the University of East Africa in Tanzania and a post-

graduate diploma in law. She was an advocate of the High Court since 1972 and practised law under the firm Z.M. Wandera & Company Advocates. Mrs Wandera was employed as a counsel by the Nairobi City Council in 1973. While there, she rose through the ranks and in 1992 became town clerk, a position she occupied until 2000. Mrs Wandera was the deputy chairperson of Strathmore Uni-

obituary

versity's council. She had been a member of the Kenya Law Reform, the Law Society of Kenya, and the Advocate's Benevolent Association (lifetime). In 1993, President Daniel arap Moi awarded her a Silver Star for her distinguished service to the nation. Mrs Wandera is survived by her husband Alfuncis and children Frederick, Alfred, Eric, Norbert and Francis.

picture story



NO STOPPING A GOOD GUY: Servicemen living with albinism recite a poem during the National Youth Service pass-out parade officiated by President Uhuru Kenyatta at the NYS College Gilgil, Nakuru County, on Thursday. "Those among you who live with disability have demonstrated once again that disability is not inability," the President said. PHOTO | SULEIMAN MBATIAH

too late

Missing bacon causes woman to open fire

A woman in the US has been sentenced to three to seven years in prison for opening fire at a McDonald's restaurant after workers twice failed to put bacon on her burgers. Authorities say that 30-year-old Shaneka Torres became angry in February 2014 when the first burger she ordered at the restaurant's drive-up station was missing bacon, according to the *Associated Press*. She was offered a free meal, but bacon also was not added to a second burger order. Police say that she fired a shot through the restaurant. No one was injured. A Kent County Circuit Court jury convicted Shaneka on March 25. On Tuesday, Judge Paul Sullivan sentenced her to one to five years for shooting at a building, plus two years for possessing a firearm during a felony. Shaneka says she is sorry "but it's over and done with".

expensive garment

5k a week for boxers

A man in the UK has revealed how his compulsion to wear new boxers every day left him facing bankruptcy. The *Daily Mirror* writes that 26-year-old Curt Almond developed his habit when he became "disgusted" at a partner wearing the same pants three days in a row. He then spent at least £40 (Sh5,600) a week on new Calvin Kleins that he threw out daily. He says: "It all began following a split with my partner. Whenever they stayed over, they would always end up wearing the same pants for three days running – it was disgusting. Eventually I ended the relationship and, as a way of getting over them, I started wearing a fresh pair of boxers every day ... Eventually my money started to run out and I had to buy budget ones instead". Having spent an average of £40 a week on boxer shorts, Curtis was forced to change his ways when he received a hefty insurance bill through the post.

misusing assistance

Calling ambulance to pick wounded squirrel



A caller in the UK dialled 999 and demanded an ambulance because someone had been knocked down. Two ambulances were scrambled and began dashing to the scene, but were halted when the operator asked for further information and the caller said the "someone" was a squirrel. The time-wasting call was just one of a series made to the East of England ambulance service this year that it is highlighting to urge the public to use 999 wisely to support its Right Call campaign, the *Daily Mirror* reports. Another came from a reveller who said "I've dropped my burger and it is bleeding". A woman called to announce that she has gone out shopping and locked herself out of her house. A man tried to use the emergency number as a free taxi service, saying "I need to go to hospital and I don't get paid until tomorrow". Another rang it to say "My feet hurt after wearing too small shoes".

Compiled by Carlos Mureithi
Twitter: @CarlosMureithi

The stranger who left me 'naked' in the banking hall

Thanks to this man who has no manners, the whole world now knows my history

I

I REMEMBER RUBBING MY ARMS, TO TRY AND CLEAR THE SUDDEN DISCOMFORT THAT HAD COME OVER ME "

Something happened to me two weeks ago that left me feeling too exposed. I was in a queue at a bank when I heard a booming voice exclaim, "Caro wa Njung'e, long time no see!"

I turned around, startled, only to come face-to-face with someone who looked vaguely familiar. "Yaani you don't remember me!" he exclaimed again when he saw the tentative look on my face.

I was about to mutter in embarrassment that I didn't when he said, "Remember that day last year when me and Symo bumped into you at that *ka-res-restaurant*?"

Now that he had jogged my memory, he had been in the company of a former colleague, Simon. We had briefly chatted since they had been on their way out.

"Oh, I remember now," I said relieved, in my sheepishness warmly shaking his outstretched hand.

"So, how have you been? You are still at Nation, right?" he asked.

I said yes, to which he wanted to know how many years I have worked here.

"Heh! You've been there a long time!" he concluded when I answered his question.

"So, Symo told me you're married..." he ventured.

I thought this an odd question, especially coming from someone I had met just once. I was hesitant to answer him, wondering where this unlikely inquisition was headed.

I shifted from one foot to the other, the feeling of nervousness slowly banks are not pubs where you can plan a murder and no one will overhear you — thanks to the loud music, even louder drunks and the general cacophony synonymous with

bars. Banks are quiet — eerily quiet — such that a sigh would reverberate throughout the hall. As you can, therefore, imagine, everyone in that long queue, including the watchmen standing guard on various corners, could overhear the conversation, especially because my interrogator was loud.

"Yes I am married," I eventually said.

"Ehe? How many years?"

Come on now, like my 13-year-old niece would say: who asks that? If anything, is this the kind of conversation you have in a bank?

At that point, I felt that I had two choices — tell him to get lost, or answer his question. After a brief internal struggle, I answered his question, resigned to the fact that now the whole of Kenya knew my life history.

"So you haven't been married that long ... you have one child, right?"

"No ... two," I answered, a feeling of dread coming over me. I had this terrible feeling that he would next ask me something embarrassingly private, and at that moment, I decided that if he asked me one more question, I would calmly ask him to take a hike.



MY WEEKEND

caroline njung'e

I was left in a daze, wondering whether I had imagined that weird conversation.



He gave a short laugh then said, "*Haraka ni ya nini?*"

I was about to tell him to go to, well, hell, when he abruptly announced, "*Sawa*, it was good seeing you," then walked away.

Sudden discomfort

I was left in a daze, wondering whether I had imagined that strange conversation. I remember rubbing my arms, to try and clear the sudden discomfort that had come over me despite the stuffy air in that hall, uncomfortably aware that several strangers now knew too much about me. From that day, I keep imagining that someone, somewhere, is busy impersonating me.

As a journalist, my core job description is to poke my nose into other people's business and, when writing personality profiles, I can find out everything there is to know about you in 45 minutes or less. But this is ac-

ceptable since, by agreeing to be interviewed, the interviewee has given me permission to be nosy. That said, most journalists (especially newspaper journalists) are very private people, who shy away from divulging too much about themselves. They tend to freeze when the microphone or camera is turned on them.

Though this may be the case, standing in that too quiet hall, I wasn't a journalist, I was just a perplexed human being who, for a reason I cannot adequately explain, felt violated. Maybe it is because when I tell you about myself, I expect to know something about you as well.

Now, thanks to this nosy man who has no social decorum, you know too much about me.

cnjunge@ke.nationmedia.com;
Twitter: @cnjerius. The writer is editor, *Living* magazine in the *Daily Nation*

FEEDBACK

When I was growing up, it was a crime to visit my neighbours or walk carelessly in my estate. The few friends I talked to had something special to offer. This got into my blood and today you have to add value to my life to be my friend.

Kiarie

My dad had the same view as your dad. I really find it awkward until now poking my nose into people's business.

Malemo

To understand more about how what we go through in childhood shapes us, read the book *The child, the Family and the Outside World*.

Kisilu

We rarely ate in people's houses. Mum never allowed us to, so I prefer to eat at home ... Well, the same rule applies in my house, with modifications.

Joel

French sociologist Pierre Bordieu described this influence as "*habitus*", the guiding framework build at a young age.

Mbataru

My father had such a large family and was such a fanatic for practical farm work that we did not have time for visits, even to our uncles. I do not even know some cousins ... I do not like visiting and would not know what to do if I were to visit. My kids seem to be getting inducted gradually.

Bor

Sometimes, privacy of one's home creates illusions from the stranger and a fear they want to confirm on arriving.

Munene

It is good to visit people only when you have alerted them and it is necessary.

Karofia

My parents were also very strict and did not want us to go to our neighbours' houses unless it was very necessary. To date I still uphold the same value.

Ruth

WORLD OF FIGURES» MUNGAI KIHANYA

How depreciation spreads out the loss of an asset

IT IS AMAZING how a simple question can lead to profound discoveries. Albert Einstein wondered whether it would be reasonable to expect a body to travel so fast that it takes zero time to traverse a given distance. Of course the answer was a resounding no! That answer led to the theory of relativity which produced the most famous equation of the 20th century: energy = m.c-squared.

Many centuries earlier, Greek philosophers had wondered what would happen if you started off with a solid block of any material and then you cut it into two halves; then took one of the halves cut it into half and continued the process. Would you ever come to a point where you are not able to cut any further — not because of the limitations of your

tools, but because you have reached the end of divisibility of matter?

The Greek philosophers concluded that such a limit must exist and they called it atomos — the "uncuttable". Many centuries later, this idea entered mainstream science and the idea of the atom was accepted.

Purchase price

I tell this tale because last week I wrote that "every year, the value of such software sheds 20 per cent of the purchase price. In five years, it is worth zero shillings!" That statement was challenged by several readers who argued that the value can never get to zero.

Reading between the lines of their emails, I realised that these readers were thinking about deducting 20 per cent of the remaining

value each year. If we did that with software purchased at, say, Sh10,000, then after the first year, the book value would be Sh8,000.

Taking away 20 per cent of Sh8,000 in the second year leaves a value of Sh6,400. If we continue in that fashion, we will be left with software worth Sh3,277 after five years. But, in real terms, computer technology may very well have moved on making our software redundant and useless.

That is, we won't even find anyone to sell it to! In that case, the Sh3,277 we have in our books is not realistic. For that reason, accountants use what is known as "the straight line" method when depreciating such assets.

In this method, we divide the purchase price of the item by the expected lifespan.

Then, every year, we take away this amount from the book value. This is why I wrote that "the value of such software sheds 20 per cent of the purchase price."

If the Sh10,000-software was purchased on January 1, 2015 with an estimated life of five years, then after one year (January 1, 2016) it will be worth Sh8,000; then Sh6,000 in the second year ... and zero shillings at the end on the fifth year (January 1, 2020).

At that point, we can decide to throw it away and buy a new one without incurring any monetary loss. That's the genius behind depreciation: it spreads the loss over a period of time.

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THAT'S LIFE

Growing older is a chance to shine



SOCIETY

carole
mandi

WHAT HAPPENED TO giving away presents? Last week on my birthday, most of my friends assumed the best way to remind me of my ageing, because that is what it is, was to send old people jokes on mobile. I guess it is a lot cheaper. Here is one that had me crying. For joy.

"Have you ever been guilty of looking at others your own age and thinking, surely I can't look that old?"

"My name is Alice and

I was sitting in the waiting room for my first appointment with a new dentist. I noticed his dental diploma, which bore his full name.

"Suddenly, I remembered a tall, handsome, dark-haired boy with the same name had been in my secondary school class some 40-odd years ago. Could he be the same guy that I had a secret crush on, way back then? Upon seeing him, however, I quickly discarded any such thought.

"This balding, grey-haired man with the deeply lined face was far too old to have been my classmate. After he examined my teeth, I asked him if he had attended Morgan Park Secondary School. 'Yes I did. I'm a Morganner!' he beamed with pride. 'When did you leave to go to college?' I asked. He answered. 'You were in my class!' I exclaimed.

"He looked at me closely. Then the ugly, old, bald, wrinkled, fat, grey-haired, decrepit old man asked, 'What subject did you teach?'"

I must admit, I am just as guilty as Alice. So many times I have looked at a former schoolmate and thought, "Has life really been that hard?" Instead I say, "You look like how you did in high school". Anything else would be rude, and my mother brought me up better.

Such meetings are usually enough to get me making an urgent appointment with my hairdresser. "Colour my hair!" I say. To hide the grey. "Then cut it!" I add. Because they say a haircut takes the years off your face.

After that I go through my wardrobe. Out go all those "comfort" shoes. You know, the type older ladies, like the one I have just met, wear. They are flat with block heels. I suppose for practical stuff, like preventing a fall. When I am left staring only at my precariously angled six-inch heels, I feel wonderful. And younger.

They say one should age gracefully. I am not buying it. This is war, baby, and I am not going down without a fight. So get out all your guns, including the night creams, neck creams, eye creams, every cream with all those anti-ageing formulas.

Right now, my dressing table resembles a beauty shop. Everything that promises to do anything — from beating cellulite to lengthening my eyelashes — is there.

The alternative

Seriously though, after I dried my tears from all the jokes, I have to say, I still felt wonderful. It is great to be alive, grey hairs and fine lines notwithstanding.

Growing older beats the alternative of dying young. It may come with some challenges, which we must try to mitigate, but it is an opportunity to see your children grow up, still reach for new dreams, and travel to exciting places while you can.

My grandmother spoils me whenever I visit. We sit in her outdoor kitchen, she on a three-legged stool, and me on a plastic chair. She cooks me a meal in an earthen pot, because she says it makes the food taste better. And we talk about life.

I am always amazed at all the history she has in her head and just how insightful she is. I like to think that she has earned each line on her face, each creak in her joints, just like a general earns his stars. She has lived and it shows. She is a beautiful, sweet and inspiring old woman. Who would not want to be like that?

She reminds me that the difference between a grumpy old man and a sweet old man starts with what is inside. One wants to make your life miserable while the other wants to bless it. One is unhappy while the other is grateful. One is waiting to die, the other is living every last breath. Since old age is a destination most of us would like to arrive at, we must choose early on whom to be when we get there.

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How to deal with a sulky partner

Ultimate responsibility for fixing their behaviour is theirs, not yours — so don't let them control you

Does your partner sulk? Perhaps triggered by some small remark, and maybe lasting for days? Right through anniversaries and family celebrations? Even expensive holidays?

Sulking's a mix of anger and refusing to say what's wrong. Because your partner thinks you should know without having to be told. So when you ask, "What's the matter?" you get the reply "Nothing!" in a tone that says there is. Or maybe even: "If you don't know what's wrong, then I'm not going to tell you!"

That comes from the romantic idea that true lovers should be able to see deep into each other's souls. It's not true, of course!

Both men and women sulk, and your relationship was probably all sweetness and light to begin with. But then the sulking gradually crept up on you. Sulkers typically push away offers of comfort, hide away somewhere, or behind a newspaper or book, put on a look, sigh, and refuse to speak to you or return your affection. Perhaps warming up whenever someone else comes near, but freezing again the moment they go.

We all need to withdraw emotionally from time to time. But frequent, regular sulking's manipulation. A form of passive-aggressive behaviour. Avoiding con-



MEN AND WOMEN

chris
hart

flict by sending "messages" to say "I'm upset" instead of addressing the issues directly.

Behaviour like this can come from verbal or physical abuse in the past. Or being raised in a family where it was impossible to express needs or strong emotions.

No control

But wherever it came from, repeatedly sulking as an adult is a deliberate choice. Even if they say they have no control over their feelings. Or you wonder if you really have done something to offend them.

So don't keep asking what's wrong. That just reinforces their behaviour. In-

stead, say in a friendly way that you know something's the matter: "I know you're upset, but I've no idea why. When you're ready to discuss what's bothering you, I'm ready to talk about it."

Until then, carry on as normal. Smile, be pleasant, and stick to your usual routines. Not easy — but effective. Because once it's clear that the sulking's not working, it's likely that your partner will gradually return to normal. And sulk less often in future.

Explain to your partner, sometime you're getting on well, that their behaviour's upsetting you. I know it sounds odd, but they may not realise that. Tell them the next time they freeze you out, you're going to acknowledge they're upset, but then you'll leave them alone until they're able to talk.

Sulking can get so bad that it gradually wrecks your whole relationship. Or perhaps your partner's becoming steadily more and more controlling. A good counsellor can give you some more advanced techniques for dealing with both. And help you decide whether you should stay in the relationship.

A controlling partner can totally overwhelm your own self-confidence and wellbeing. And ultimately the responsibility for fixing their behaviour is theirs, not yours.

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SUNDAY SERMON >> FR JOE BABENDREIER

Count on God's grace to do the impossible

MANY THINGS JESUS said to the Jews were shocking. This is probably the main reason the disciples remembered the Sermon on the Mount so clearly that they could put it in writing years later.

The command to love an enemy — as opposed to the law of an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth — contradicted their way of life so much that the words of Christ were deeply impressed in their memory.

Another phrase that shocked the disciples was the one about marriage. Jesus equated divorce and remarriage with adultery. The apostles couldn't believe Jesus was asking them to live that way. They approached our Lord pri-

vately and said, "If that is how things are between husband and wife, it would be better never to marry." They were convinced Jesus was demanding the impossible.

This encounter between Jesus and his disciples is one of the best proofs that the problems men and women face today are no different from those of ages past. In that sense, nothing has changed.

On many occasions Jesus had to encourage his apostles to accept the challenge of living holy lives when such a life seemed utterly beyond them.

He knew he was asking them to live a life that most people would consider humanly impossible. Jesus was not naive, thinking his

disciples were better than everyone else. He knew their weaknesses — and he knows our weaknesses.

What do we do? Jesus made it clear that we must count on God's grace. In other words, he was telling us that the impossible is possible because of this gift poured into our souls.

"For men it is impossible, but not for God; because for God everything is possible."

Having been filled with grace after the coming of the Holy Spirit, those first men and women understood how crucial it was to be faithful in marriage. Some of them accepted a higher calling to celibacy — what Jesus called "being eunuchs for the king-

dom". The idea of celibacy (being an eunuch) was even more shocking than the idea that a man and woman had to be faithful to each other "until death do them part". Again, only God's power acting from within can explain how men and women can make a commitment to celibacy and remain faithful to it — but that's another topic for another day.

In next week's sermon, I will quote the references to marriage in Scripture. For now, remember we are dealing with a truth God revealed. Don't worry if, at first, you react the same way the apostles did, convinced that God's plan is impossible.

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GOING PLACES » MOMBASA

A slow drive to the coast and back

I was in a petrol station at Voi before 11 a.m. to refuel the car and refresh myself ... After that, things began to go wrong

BY JOHN FOX

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One of the good things about writing a column such as Going Places is that any discomfort – or even disaster – can be turned to advantage. It can be grist for the writing mill. And my trip to the coast last weekend presented me with plenty of grist.

I was attending the Rotary District Conference and Assembly – and the District, by the way, comprises Kenya, Ethiopia, Eritrea and South Sudan. This grand meeting of more than 300 delegates was being held at the Leisure Lodge Resort on Diani Beach along the South Coast of Mombasa.

I decided to drive. Even the plague of lorries I knew I would encounter didn't put me off. (The last time I drove the route, a friend out from the UK said to me when we reached Mombasa, "I reckon you have passed more lorries today than I have passed

in my lifetime!") Anyway, I left at 5 a.m. to get away from Nairobi before the traffic built up.

All went smoothly until I was flagged down by a policeman just beyond Makindu. He walked round the car, checked my insurance sticker, and then asked for my driving licence. I took it from the back pocket of my trousers and gave him. He turned it over, smiled, and said, "I am going to charge you. This licence is mutilated."

"I know the cover is faded and a bit torn, officer," I said – politely, I think – "but it's still a valid licence, isn't it?"

"It is mutilated. It is an offence," the policeman insisted. "You will go to the police station and I will see you later in court."

I was tempted to tell him that twice already that morning I had had to swerve off the tarmac to avoid being smashed. I was tempted to point out that there were many more serious driving offences happening along Mombasa Road that morning than being in possession of a rather scruffy licence. But I decided that sweet talk might serve my purpose better, so I promised that I would make sure to get a new cover as soon as I returned to Nairobi. He either relented, or he got bored, or he realised that there was no *kitu kidogo* coming his way – and he let me get on.

I was in a petrol station at Voi before 11 a.m. to refuel the car and refresh



The breakfast room at Leopard Beach Resort.
PHOTO | JOHN FOX

myself with a cup of coffee. After that, things began to go wrong.

First, it was the painfully slow trundle of lorries into Mombasa after Mariakani. My mind must have switched off because I suddenly realised (how many times have I driven this road?) that I had missed the left turn to the causeway and we were heading – even more painfully slowly – to the docks.

Eventually, I found a gap, made a U-turn, crossed the causeway, and joined the swarm of tuk-tuks for the dodgem ride through town – only to find the queue for the Likoni Ferry

was taking over two hours. And this is the entry to one of Kenya's main tourist destinations!

No longer available

Finally, just before it was getting dark, I arrived at the Leisure Lodge Resort – only to be told that the room that had been booked and confirmed for me was no longer available. A number of members of another conference, who should have cleared their rooms that morning, had decided to stay on. Why they were not told they could extend their stay only if there were un-booked

rooms – to that question I got only a shrug of the shoulders, a resigned smile, an apology – and information that arrangements had been made for me to stay next door at the Leopard Beach Resort.

Tired and angry, I re-stowed my bags in my car and drove off to Leopard Beach – for a drink, a shower, a snack and a sleep.

As it turned out, the room at Leopard Beach was very comfortable. When I opened the curtains and the window in the morning, I had a view over the gardens to the Indian Ocean. The sun had broken through the clouds and, after the rain of the night, there was a freshness in the air.

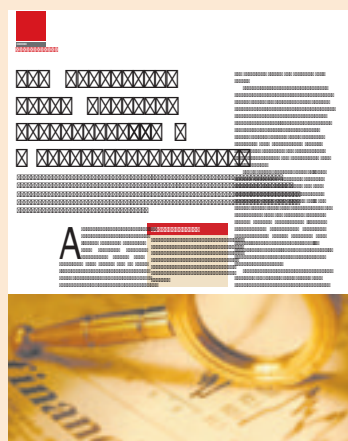
The breakfast was superb. As I drove back to Leisure Lodge for the day's conferencing, I reckoned that, despite the previous evening's frustration, I had been given a better deal. I decided to stay on at Leopard Beach.

For the drive back home on the Sunday, I took the Shimba Hills route through Kwale and on to Samburu. It is an all-weather, murrum road and, for most of the way, it had been recently graded. You add a few kilometres but I reckon you gain at least two hours. You can relax and enjoy the scenery. Until, of course, you join up again with the trundle of lorries along the main road.

John Fox is Managing Director, IDC

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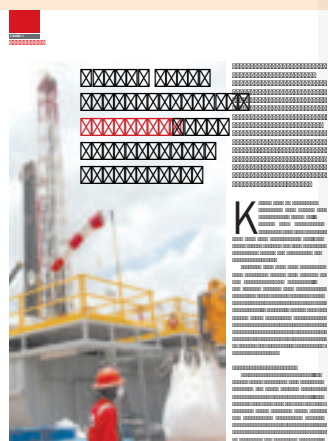
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Safaricom CEO Bob Collymore (right) greets Ms Emma Nyambura Gichonge, who was managing the project to bring M-Pesa home. PHOTO | COURTESY

It felt like war, leading 'operation bring

Emma Nyambura is only 33 years old, but it was on her petite shoulders that the weight of transferring crucial servers from Germany rested; she made it

BY ELVIS ONDIEKI

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Safaricom CEO Bob Collymore tweeted a photo with a telling caption on April 19.

"Emma Gichonge was the Project Manager in charge. Not available for poaching! #MPESAIMewasili," wrote Mr Collymore, cheekily alluding to the recent appointment of the company's Director of Corporate Affairs Nzioka Waita as the Secretary of Delivery in the Office of the President.

It was said to be one of the biggest and most complex projects the

company had ever embarked on and the information technology specialist, who led the team of 320 people in the Herculean task of moving M-Pesa servers from Germany to Kenya — a process that lasted between 11 p.m. on Friday April 17 and 11.30 a.m. on April 19 after years of meticulous planning — received special mention from the CEO.

In the picture that accompanied Mr Collymore's tweet, Ms Emma Nyambura Gichonge, 33, is focusing on something as engineers punch away furiously on their computer keyboards. She is wearing a white T-shirt emblazoned with the words: "S.W.A.T team: We don't meet standards. We set them."

Ms Nyambura was having the moment of her life at the time the photo was taken in a room christened "The Cut-Over War Room".

Despite having been on her feet for about 21 hours alongside senior engineers like head of product and services development Ken Okwero, she was happy that a project she had been co-ordinating since January 2013 had reached a fruitful conclusion.

The migration process had been

codenamed "Operation Mwamba", and it had been planned like a military operation, with an exit plan hatched in case of failure.

During the time when the rest of Kenya could not access M-Pesa services, the "war room" was a hive of activity, and Ms Nyambura was one of those working on overdrive to ensure all went well. The M-Pesa platforms Ms Nyambura and the team were migrating host all the information for the more than 18 million users who transact about Sh3 billion daily.

War room

A South African anti-hacking team was on stand-by in case a mischievous person tried to infiltrate the code.

A data back-up had already been created in case someone interfered with the cables formerly linking M-Pesa to its servers in Germany and teams prepared on what to do to revert to the initial system among other checks. To the team, this was war.

By the time the new system was up, Ms Nyambura and her crew had ensured that M-Pesa now had the ability to process 900 transactions per second, up from the previous 320.

The new servers are embodied with the ability to return messages in three seconds compared to the previous 10 and also able to accommodate more mobile money transactions.

Also, M-Pesa will now run on second generation software made in China by Huawei, ditching the first generation one that had been designed by technology giant IBM.

It was in the "War Room" where a moment of silence was held before all M-Pesa services were shut down at 11 p.m. on April 18 and it was there that excited but fatigued employees counted to zero when M-Pesa was finally restored.

Insiders say the switch-back moment was an emotional one for Safaricom's top brass.

According to Safaricom's head of corporate and communications department, Marie-Anne Kui Kinyanjui, Mr Collymore almost shed tears of joy when the service was restored as others shouted in joy.



The team that oversaw the transfer of M-Pesa servers to Kenya. PHOTO | COURTESY

The CEO's tweet of Ms Nyambura's photo, posted three hours after services resumed, was coloured with a celebratory tone, same as two other photos of Mr Okwero and others in the team.

"And we're live again on M-Pesa. One of the biggest IT projects carried out in Africa. Thanks to our customers for your patience," Mr Collymore tweeted at exactly noon.

For the whole of that afternoon, Ms Nyambura was beside herself with joy.

With her slender frame, one can easily dismiss the company's senior programmes manager as just another girl next door. But her credentials depict a go-getter aiming at the stars.

We're live again on M-Pesa

She sat her Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education examination at Precious Blood, Riruta, in 1999 before joining Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology the following year for a Bachelor's degree in Information Technology.

"While considering the course I would take, I bumped into IT. I never had had it in my dreams but I decided to have a go at it as it was a relatively new field of study in Kenya," she says.

"I secured internship at the National Council for Law Reporting between September and December 2003,

where I worked under Gladys Boss Shollei (who would later be appointed the chief registrar of the Judiciary). She was very pragmatic in her work and was really into IT," she says.

The council, she says, which is responsible for the Kenya Law Reports, was then still under the Judiciary and did not have sufficient funding.

"As such, there was a lot of focus into using technology to enhance and distribute information, and my IT skills came in handy. After completing the internship, the council assimilated me in January 2004. That is the same year I graduated from JKUAT," adds Ms Nyambura, the firstborn in a family of three children.

She worked at the council for four years and, during that period, she took part in digitising legal publications and the building of a new website that would make it easy to access legal information.

"Before a group of five interns was brought in, I was sort of a jack of all trades. I would link up with judges to get copies of their decisions, oversee the operation of the council's website, among other things," she says.

During her stay at the law reporting council, she developed an interest in project management.

"I had seen how various sponsors like the United Nations and DFID

THE GROWING NUMBERS OF M-PESA USERS WERE PART OF THE REASONS BEHIND BRINGING IT HOME"

— MARIE-ANNE KUI





Safaricom CEO Bob Collymore (right) and other staff minutes before M-Pesa services were restored. PHOTO | COURTESY

M-Pesa home'

pumped in money to help the council and the measures they would take to ensure the money was well spent. That ignited a spark in me; a spark that had also been partly activated by a lecturer who taught us a common course in my first year in university," she says.

She then decided to take a course in project management at a local institute before she took an online examination by America-based Project Management Institute.

She later enrolled for a Master's degree in IT Management at the University of Sunderland.

"It was a long-distance course on which I concentrated every Saturday. I had no life for 27 months," she says.

After being certified as a project manager, she landed a job at Safaricom as a project officer in September 2008.

"I was excited. Kenya Law was a small company of about 50 people in total; and here I was in Safaricom with so many people. I took time to integrate into the system," she says.

Project management

Ms Nyambura never knew she would one day be charged with co-ordinating one of the most technical projects that Safaricom has ever undertaken.

The "M-Pesa coming home" was one of at least three major projects that Ms Nyambura had led.

Between 2008 and 2013 when the company management gave a go-ahead for the migration of the M-Pesa infrastructure to Kenya, she had headed a number of projects.

"The first time I was given a leadership role was in 2009 when I was handed the responsibility of co-ordinating the second phase of a project to ensure customer care representatives had a central place from where to access clients' data," she says.

Before that, she explains, the representatives wasted a lot of time trying to log in to various systems while serving clients. The project was intense and a good learning opportunity.

"A lot of focus was on transformation because this was new. It took a lot of training, reviewing our processes internally, very many cross-functional teams

and getting the right exposure.

"I did that until April 2010 and it was marked by adrenaline rush. There were so many things to do, many people to manage but we made it," she told *Life-style*.

In July 2010, she earned a promotion to the position of project manager in Safaricom's technical division.

"I applied for the internally advertised post and I was lucky to be taken in. When I got in, I was told to lead a team that would streamline the billing system; to bring the pre- and post-paid services into one," she says.

This was implemented in two phases: One from July 2010 to February 2011 and another between February and October 2011.

"It is in the course of this project that I first interacted with the Chinese experts. They are different. They work extremely hard. I was sponsored to go for training in China and I came to appreciate the way they work," says Ms Nyambura.

Her impression is that while the Chinese are not as vigorous in processes as the Americans or Europeans — and that was a gap she had to fill — they are very quick to turn things around and fix issues.

"And it was because of this project that I made a presentation to (then CEO) Michael Joseph and Bob Collymore for the first time as they were transitioning. I panicked a lot," she says.

Then came the idea to bring M-Pesa home.

"In January 2013, there was an endorsement at the executive committee that the M-Pesa infrastructure had to be relocated to Kenya," she says.

The core system of the mobile money transfer service was in Germany, owing to an agreement between UK-based Vodafone and IBM, an American computer manufacturing company.

"IBM has a big server firm in Germany and when Safaricom was rolling out our M-Pesa initially in 2007, they didn't anticipate it would be as big as it got and assumed the servers would be enough," explains Ms Kinyanjui, the mobile service provider's communications boss.

"After eight months, it had eight million people, now it has 18 million. The growing numbers were part of the

reasons behind bringing it home," she says.

The initial date for migration was set for August 2014 but this was not achieved due to technicalities in communication.

"The project had three programme managers: myself from Safaricom, someone from Vodafone and someone from Huawei. IBM was being managed by Vodafone. That has been the arrangement," explains Ms Nyambura.

"We split into three main teams. One was charged with ensuring we had the best data centres that would withstand threats like power outages and would be kept at a safe place," she says.

Three main teams

Another team was also dealing with business readiness since the platform would move from Germany to Kenya and that would change things.

"The third one was for risk and audit, to ensure the integrity of data during transfer. Forty-six per cent of our GDP passes through M-Pesa and we had to ensure we got the right controls and monitoring," says Ms Nyambura. "There was also another project around technology operations. Previously, technology support was being done in Egypt, Germany and India. The first line was Egypt, the core support was being done in Germany and the third support in India."

After a series of meetings, rehearsals and presentations, the moment of truth came on April 12. This was the day when the Safaricom leadership would decide if the company was ready for migration.

Former CEO Michael Joseph, Mr Collymore and other heads asked various questions on the company's readiness.

"By then, we had done six rehearsals; two of which were service affecting, meaning we brought a service out two times so that we could really practise what it would mean to cut one end," Ms Nyambura explains.

They gave it a nod.

The preceding week was spent educating users on what would happen during and after the migration.

The week also saw the teams start



Ms Emma Nyambura, project manager at Safaricom Limited, who led the team that relocated M-Pesa servers to Kenya, during the interview on Thursday.

PHOTOS | SALATON NJAU

the transfer of data from the old system to the new. The old data had to be converted to a format that the second generation software had to understand.

Explains Nyambura: "We were terminating services in bits because the data migration was in two bits and that would make it easier to revert to the original system. That is why some services were withdrawn earlier."

On the night of the main switch-off, the main activity that was done was transferring data from the old system to the new.

"It was a lot easier because we had rehearsed it 14 times before," Ms Nyambura says.

During the migration, special attention was paid to the 24 services

that depend on M-Pesa. The team had a checklist to ensure all other products were considered.

Afterwards, an audit team checked if the new data was similar to the old one. It gave an okay shortly before noon and the transfer was a reality. The Central Bank of Kenya had its representatives as did audit firm PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Once the service was restored, the teams went into celebrations in the afternoon as they ushered in the M-Pesa technicians to take over.

At about 3 p.m., Mr Collymore officially released the transfer team and Ms Nyambura, who is single, could not wait to go home to catch some sleep after a 21-hour marathon — bringing M-Pesa home.



IT WAS MY MOTHER WHO TAUGHT ME THAT ALTERING AN OUTFIT IS IN ITSELF AN ART

Extending the life of your clothes one stitch at a time

Good alterations can be as good as, if not better, than an entirely new outfit. It breathes new life into your wardrobe when done expertly

BY CAROL ODERO
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You would think growing up with a fashionista mother makes for a fabulous life. It has its rewards. But sometimes it bites. I remember my first fabric shopping experience. Kanda Bongoman was king. I wanted his pants and to wrap them around a bolero. I may have been 10. And it would be my Christmas outfit.

I had a mess of designs swimming in my head and used hands accompanied by a stubby pencil and a series of one dimensional drawings to illustrate. Mum said great. I was smug. Then she said we would go fabric shopping the next day.

Fabric shopping for anyone not stuck in the grunty annals of the fashion industry is nothing like retail therapy. Instead of finding pretty, complete things taunting you in airy stores streaming bespoke pop music from hidden speakers and upholstered furniture, there are reams upon reams of fabric that soon start to feel and look the same. It is bleary, dusty and thankless in tight, poorly lit spaces and you will suffer from colour blindness. Mum always had to step out into the sun to confirm hues. The only thing that rivalled it was watching Football Made in Germany over the top of my dad's head.

As it so happened, this was not the worst part about owning a sewing machine. For my mother that hell was alterations. She even had a pet-peeve name for them: repair.

It was a state of affairs that occurred when a client brought a mountain of ill-fitting clothes, usually gifts from a loved one



A dressmaker at work in Nairobi on Friday. PHOTO | MARTIN MUKANGU



“KNOWING WHAT CAN BE FUNDAMENTALLY ALTERED SAVES YOU TIME AND MONEY”

who wrongly estimated size, outfits bought in a fit of pique or outgrown and undergrown clothes with the expectation of a miracle a few days later. At first, I didn't get why it was peevy. I figured you just resew along the hem to make it smaller, and used a ripper to take out the seams to make it bigger. Pencil skirts looked “repairable” and a treat. The seams could be taken in and out till the fabric fell apart or lighting illuminated the varying shades, whichever came first. Zippers and buttons get replaced for a brand new look and darts are taken in. Sheaths and shift dresses were a piece of cake and basic shirts could have tails chopped and shortened, sleeves readjusted and sizes shrunk. What could be so hard about it?

Then I was in my 20s experiencing weight fluctuations and my mother put me to work. Soon enough I too, begun to resent repairs, grinding my teeth each time my sister exclaimed she could buy an outfit to resize it and rethinking every potential

ready to wear buy. And when clients brought botched repairs it was the 9th circle of hell. My mother, lady that she is, would cuss all through, re-emphasising every chance she got how she loathed this task with needle pricks taking on monumental proportions. We learnt to be on our best behaviour such days.

It was my mother who taught me that altering an outfit is in itself an art, fashioning waistbands by redesigning bottoms and grafting hems. For some reason she just did not ever say die. Sometimes the finished result was so spectacular it outshone the original. In spite of herself, her clients were always blown away. I couldn't help but think there had to be an easier way beyond simply saying no.

Apparently there is, because along with fabric shopping came bouts of mitumba and retail shopping. And more often than not she stayed my hand, telling me blazers cannot be made to fit across the shoulders if they were not

born that way, unhemming all of my denims after the first wash to account for shrinkage, adding and subtracting darts on blouses, pants, skirts and dresses, school uniforms that outlasted the Energizer bunny, scavenging for buttons and zippers to replace existing ones and squeezing fabric until it squeaked. She basically fuelled the need for responsible shopping rendering repairs useless. The best part about having a mum who can visualise and sew was iron damage control.

Those were oddly frequent. So beautifully done was her work that I still look at some of her outfits, now vintage, that my sister and I wrecked, and I can't tell where the fault lines lie. Good alterations can be as good as, if not better, than an entirely new outfit. It breathes new life into your wardrobe when done expertly. Knowing what can be fundamentally altered saves you time and money. It also does wonders for your relationship with your very skilled tailor.



YOUR SKIN

**irene
njoroge-
kristian**

Dealing with insect bites and stings

LIVING IN THE tropics often means that there are bound to be some encounters with insects. Most insect bites are quite harmless and go away on their own when left untreated. Others are more harmful and can cause considerable damage to the skin. One of the proven ways to prevent insect bites is to take Vitamin B1 supplements before you are exposed to insects, for example when going out camping. Take 100 milligrams before leaving. The Vitamin B1 (thiamine) is excreted through the pores of the skin and produces a smell that repels insects. This works especially well when you wish to avoid mosquito and safari ant bites. Mosquitoes may be repelled by the application of diluted eucalyptus oil or citronella.

When you are stung by a bee, take quick measures to reduce and stop the swelling and pain. Pour some ice-cold water into a bucket and mix it with bicarbonate of soda. Plunge in the affected area or rinse the area with this combination. Do not pull out the stinger of a bee; it should be scraped out gently.

To prevent the itching and scratching caused by mosquito bites, bathe the affected area with lemon juice.

If you are affected by the Nairobi fly, use diluted dettol to clean the area where the insect's fluid landed. This will help to prevent the unsightly scarring that often results.

The author is the national director of the safe skin care initiative. Query?safeskin@kincarefrica@gmail.com



Keep cockroaches out of your kitchen by sprinkling clove powder in places where they hide such as behind the fridge, under cupboards and other places. The pungent smell of cloves drives them away.

KITCHEN TIP

COOKERY

Pasta and homemade tomato herb sauce

PASTA IS VERY handy to have in the kitchen because it is easy to cook into a quick meal. The best pasta dishes are those prepared with sauces made from scratch, for example homemade tomato sauce. Try this delicious traditional Italian style recipe with a Kenyan touch.

Serves 4
Preparation time: 40 mins

Ingredients:

2 tbsp olive oil
2 onions, finely chopped
2 cloves garlic, crushed
6 large ripe tomatoes, peeled and finely chopped
1 small carrot, finely grated
1/8-- stalk celery, finely chopped
1 tsp dried basil, crumbled
1/2- tsp mixed herbs (oregano & marjoram)
1/2- glass red wine (optional)
Salt and black pepper to taste
6 shreds cheese

1/2-tomato and mint leaf to garnish
3 cups manicotti pasta
1/4- cup cooked leafy vegetables

Method:

1. In a small saucepan, heat the olive oil and sauté onions until glassy. Add the garlic tomatoes, celery and carrot and simmer over low heat covered for 15 minutes. Stir frequently and add a little water to prevent sticking.

2. Add the dried basil, mixed

herbs, wine, salt and pepper and mix well. Cover and simmer for 10 minutes until the herbs release their aroma.

3. In a separate saucepan boil the pasta until it is al dente (firm and chewy). Drain and mix in the leafy vegetables.

4. Pour the sauce over the pasta and mix until all the pasta is coated with the sauce. Serve with grated cheese and garnish with tomato and mint.

Cooking tips:

- This recipe for tomato sauce is suitable for using with other foods such as chicken, fish and rice. Pour over roasted or fried meats.

- The ideal way to cook pasta is until it becomes "al dente" – firm yet chewy. Follow the manufacturers instructions.

- Select the correct pasta shape for specific sauces.



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HEALTH >>

Depression control therapy

A MINDFULNESS-BASED THERAPY could offer a "new choice for millions of people" with recurrent depression, a *Lancet* report suggests.

Scientists tested it against anti-depressant pills for people at risk of relapse and found it worked just as well.

The therapy trains people to focus their minds and understand that negative thoughts may come and go.

In England and Wales doctors are already encouraged to offer it.

Patients who have had recurrent clinical depression are often prescribed long-term anti-depressant drugs to help prevent further episodes.

And experts stress that drug therapy is still essential for many.

In this study, UK scientists enrolled 212 people who were at risk of further depression on a course of mindfulness-based cognitive therapy (MBCT) while carefully reducing their medication.

Patients took part in group sessions where they learned guided meditation and mindfulness skills.

The therapy aimed to help people focus on the present, recognise any early warning signs of depression and respond to them in ways that did not trigger further reoccurrences.

Researchers compared these results to 212 people who continued to take a full course of medication over two years.

By the end of the study, a similar proportion of people had relapsed in both groups. And many in the MBCT group had been tapered off their medication.

Scientists say these findings suggest MBCT could provide a much-needed alternative for people who cannot or do not wish to take long-term drugs.

In their report, they conclude it "may be a new choice for millions of people with recurrent depression on repeat prescriptions."

Nigel Reed, who took part in the study, added: "Mindfulness gives me a set of skills which I use to keep well in the long term."

"Rather than relying on the continuing use of anti-depressants, mindfulness puts me in charge, allowing me to take control of my own future, to spot when I am at risk and to make the changes I need to stay well."

Providing an independent comment on the study, Dr Gwen Adshead, of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, said: "These findings are important from the point of view of people living with depression who are trying to engage in their own recovery."

—BBC

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Gospel artiste Kambua Manundu speaks of her passion for music and quest for relevance.
PAGE 13



Circute, his wife Cathy and their three children at home in Komarock. **RIGHT: Circute and the writer.** PHOTOS | BRIAN CLIFF



Circute's unmaking by Manyake and his return journey to God

Victor Gerald Wagana talks about his controversial song 'Juala' that sparked debate and his second chance at salvation

BY BRIAN CLIFF
@MrBrianCliff

Sundaynation@ke.nationmedia.com

It was an idea that came to mind as he weighed a chunk of beef in his father's butchery, inspiring one of the most controversial songs in Kenya's popular culture. But more than a decade later, there is little sign that Mr Victor Gerald Wagana – the doting father of three posing for the *Lifestyle* photographer next to his smiling wife – was once a flamboyant rapper known as Circute, whose lurid lyrics in the hit song *Juala* (*Manyake*) sparked a divisive morality debate.

"Discussions about the song were often sandwiched between major news items featuring Raila Odinga and Mwai Kibaki on national TV!" chuckles Circute, who is now a born-again Christian.

Even though he has resigned to the reality that he will never shake off the stage name Circute, there is little similarity between his life now and then.

Mustering the best of his story-telling skills, he looks back to 2002 when the country was on the verge of a historic General Election that would for the first time remove the Independence party Kanu from power. The Gidi Gidi Maji Maji duo ruled the airwaves with *Unbwogable* – a song that captured the imagination of the nation and lent itself to the Opposition coalition's successful campaign.

In the meantime, Nonini was scheming the release of *Wee Kamu* – a risqué song that would rattle panicky parents witnessing an unfolding culture shock. The era of conservative afro pop dominated by Five Alive, Shadz-O-Blak, Hardstone and other artistes was fast giving way to a more audacious generation starring E-Sir, Redsan, Nameless and Prezzo among others.

Circute himself had earlier been part of

an eclectic group, the Rap Community, which tore into Kenya's gospel music space in the mid-1990s with their brazen style that included a flashy sense of fashion that was then a novelty in the genre.

The group featured its founder Thomas Kwaka "Big Ted" (currently a deputy director at the Presidential Strategic Communication Unit), and Kevin Ombajo "Big Key" (who runs the True Blaq events company) among others.

Circute calls it "the dream team that premiered the infusion of rap into gospel music in Kenya".

But despite what he says was "overwhelming support" from zealous youth and a few progressive pastors, the group's mettle soon began to melt under the heat of relentless criticism.

"We were gruesomely crucified for our music and our dressing," he says.

Born in 1975 as the last born of five siblings, Circute was brought up in Nairobi's Buru Buru Estate by staunch Christian parents. Not even a derogatory phrase used by his peers to ridicule his unusually light skin could put him down. The name "Circute", he says, was a shortened version of "Circulation of yellow albino" that was his nickname in primary school.

He loved acting but his passion for rap music was dramatically kindled by a childhood friend who lent him a copy of American Rapper LL Cool J's second studio album, *BAD*.

But while at Equator High School, he got saved and devoted his time during the holidays to youth activities at the Kenya As-

semblies of God in Buru Buru. After high school, he joined the rap group that he believed would revolutionise contemporary Christian rap music.

But the breakup of the group led the forlorn young man to manage his father's nightclub businesses – and to a life of drinking and debauchery having been excommunicated from his church for being part of a "demonic" music group.

"When everybody begins to doubt your salvation, it's easy to start doubting yourself," Circute says, adding that his love for music was never extinguished.

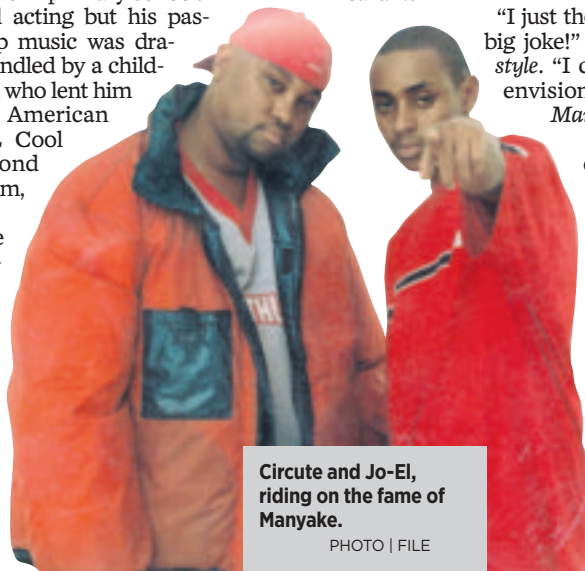
One day in 2002 as he was weighing a client's chunk of beef at the club's butchery, the *manyake* idea (which literally means meat, but figuratively refers to a woman's backside) hit him. He immediately called his musical cousin Jo-el, with whom he had recorded other unreleased singles, to share the idea of the suggestive song.

They would later settle for the title *Juala* – the sheng word for condom. But the name *Manyake*, which was repeated in the chorus followed by the refrain "all sizes", stuck.

All his friends, including his wife Cathy Gathoni, trashed the song when they first heard it.

"I just thought it was one big joke!" Cathy told *Lifestyle*. "I couldn't possibly envision anyone liking *Manyake*!"

But Clement "Clemo" Rapudo, then a fast-rising producer whose Calif Records was engineering the Genge genre of Kenyan music, so believed in the song's commercial potential that he sponsored its video. When the song, which Circute



Circute and Jo-el, riding on the fame of *Manyake*. PHOTO | FILE

insists was "simply about responsible condom use", received considerable airplay in most radio shows, the young artistes knew they were on to a good thing.

Lucrative offers for performances and media interviews soon followed – as did debate on the song with some criticising its lurid lyrics and calling for its ban.

For the next few years, the duo basked in the fame and infamy of *Manyake*. More than a decade since the song sparked controversy, Circute says society "totally misunderstood the song" and applied "double standards".

"*Manyake* got fried while other unbelievably graphic foreign music videos were still being broadcast on Kenyan TV. I just couldn't understand the logic," he says.

He explains that after the song hit the airwaves, he was often confronted by people who accused him of degrading morals while others gave him the thumbs up. The musician was particularly disturbed when a woman complained of her four-year-old son's use of the word *manyake*.

"The day that lady approached me about her son's lewd comments to his little sister happened to coincide with my daughter's first birthday," he says.

As a new father, he grew concerned about how the song could eventually impact on his own children.

Circute says his marriage and personal life were also disintegrating as he got engulfed in the flames of fame.

"Although I was happy for my husband's career breakthrough, I watched him being swept away by the winds of fame. He became such a mess," Cathy recalls.

The musician's parents, like his wife, were also worried. Circute says his mother started praying for him, asking God to give her prodigal son a second chance at salvation.

Years later in 2009, a Bible-clutching Circute accompanied his old friend and fellow musician, Rufftone to attend a service at Rev Teresia Wairimu's Faith Evangelical Ministries in Karen.

"I knew he had gone through a lot in his life during and after *Manyake*, and I just wanted to be there for him amid all the rejection," Rufftone told *Lifestyle*.

It was at the event that Jemimah Thiong'o, a prominent gospel singer, confessed she had been praying for him over the years since he released *Manyake*.

"She informed me that for some reason she just couldn't stop praying for me," Circute says, adding that he got saved on that day.

As the interview ends in Circute's house in Nairobi's Komarock estate, his wife of 13 years is in no doubt about the path he has been walking in the last few years, putting the controversial song behind him.

"It took years for me to see any real change in him, but now he is the staunchest Christian I know! I'm lucky to have a man of God who even commands things to happen in Jesus name and they do!" she says.

Today Circute runs his family's real estate business. He retains his interest in gospel music even though his attempt at a comeback with the song *Cha Kutumaini* never hit the levels he expected.

"ALTHOUGH I WAS HAPPY FOR MY HUSBAND'S CAREER BREAKTHROUGH, I WATCHED HIM BEING SWEEPED AWAY BY THE WINDS OF FAME. HE BECAME SUCH A MESS,"
- CATHY, CIRCUTE'S WIFE



#KisumuNiQwetu



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tukitembelea kaunti ya Kisumu.

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+ ANKO + DJ MO + JUA CALI + FRED OMONDI**

JOMO KENYATTA GROUNDS KUANZIA SAA SITA (12PM) MCHANA

**ENTRY:
FREE WITH
A COPY OF
THE
SUNDAY
NATION**



SUNDAY NATION



AGAINST MY WISH, MY FATHER AGREED THAT WE WOULD VISIT FIOLINA'S PLACE IN A WEEK'S TIME

There shall be no more dowry from me to my in-laws

STAFF ROOM
DIARYmwali
mu
andrew

A few days after Fiolina arrived from Mosoriot TTC, I met her brother Tocla – at Hitler's obviously. In fact, I don't remember ever meeting Tocla at any other place. Tocla and I haven't been the best of in-laws for the last few months. This came after I stopped buying him and his friends pick-ups at Hitler's. He had always known that I would be the one to buy him but since he never returned the hand, I stopped – after all, I am not vying for any electoral seat now or in future.

"Bring it any day," I had told him when he said that he had a letter for me. In Mwisho wa Lami parlance, a letter simply meant a message – but it could as well be a letter!

The next day, Tocla arrived at our home. With him was his daughter Frida. In our early marriage days, Frida used to stay with us and had even enrolled at Mwisho wa Lami Primary School and only went back home when Fiolina went to Mosoriot.

On seeing Tocla and Frida, Fiolina was very excited and moved quickly to start preparing a meal for them. There wasn't

much for me to discuss with Tocla as we were both sober. So he went straight to what had brought him.

"Is your father around?" he asked. Mzee had left but I could get him.

"He is not far but I can assist," I answered him.

"The letter I have is from my father to your father," he said. I could sense what he was looking for. After he had eaten a plateful of ugali and a whole tilapia fish, I took him to see my parents.

After pleasantries, Tocla gave my father the letter. It was a poorly written letter in which Fiolina's father was asking when we would complete paying the remaining instalment of dowry.

I knew Fiolina was behind this. And it always happened when I expected some money. As I may have mentioned to you, I recently applied for a loan to buy a new commercial motorcycle, after Nyayo broke down my old one. Knowing that I was expecting some money in a few days, Fiolina was pushing her people so that they could also get a share of the money.

And I knew my father would not defend me. Since he knew that I would not give him any of this money anyway, he didn't mind seeing me waste it away. Plus he knew he would get something small once he takes me for dowry negotiations.

After some discussions, against my wish, my father agreed that we would visit Fiolina's place in a week's time. I tried to dispute this but they were adamant. We looked for the wisest of Mwisho wa Lami's wazees; and Alphayo, Rasto and Nyayo joined us in visiting Fiolina's parents yesterday.

I wore my newest blue Kaunda suit – but in a new, modern style. Under the Kaunda suit I had a green shirt and red tie. I, however, did not button the Kaunda coat. I then matched this with my special function glasses. I had given Nyayo one of my old green Kaunda suits and he

looked great in it. Rasto and Alphayo borrowed shoes and a shirt respectively from me. I did not expect them to return them as they have never returned anything borrowed from me before.

We arrived at the home at around 11 a.m. I could see Fiolina, who had travelled the previous day, busy in the kitchen. Before travelling, she had insisted that I do shopping for the function, which I had done to avoid a quarrel.

Nyayo relished such functions, and he had not taken breakfast that day, as he expected a lot of food ahead. We started with tea accompanied with ground nuts, ugali and chapati. Only I touched ground nuts. Nyayo took three cups of tea and about half a loaf.

After the tea we went straight into discussions, after introductions were done. My side was led by Alphayo.

"We received a letter from you and we said let us come and hear from you what you have for us," he started.

"Thank you Alphayo," said Rafael, their spokesperson. "Penye wazee hapaharibiki neno. It has been years since you last visited us."

He went on: "And our daughter, as you know, will soon be a teacher who will be bringing her salary to your home, not ours."

"We are happy that Fiolina will soon be a teacher," said Rasto. "And we thank you Andrea who pays her fees." This was not taken well by Fiolina's side.

"We are all educating her and our son should not think he is the only one paying," said Fiolina's father. "I am the one who gave her transport to Morosiot in January."

"And don't forget we had taken her up to Form Four," Rafael reminded all.

My father, who ideally should not speak at such functions, joined in: "Ever since my daughter joined Morosiot, my son here has never given me anything," he



Illustration by Joseph Ngare

said. "All his money goes to paying Fiolina's fees."

"He also never sends anything to us," complained Fiolina's father. "My other sons who married my daughters usually send some sugar, but huyu Andrea wenyu ni mkono birika."

Tocla nodded to this before adding, "Hata mkikutana mahali ya wazee, huyu Dre ni kama hani-jui, hawezi kufanya kitu na ni mtu ako na mshahara."

Since food was ready, it was agreed that we be served and continue with discussions after food. You do not know Nyayo until you put food before him. He filled his plate with practically everything available – ugali, chicken, beef, matumbo, chapati, fruits, all at the same time. His plate was so full that some pieces of beef were hanging precariously.

Discussions continued shortly after lunch, but only a few people could concentrate. Nyayo, Tocla and Alphayo were so full they were just dozing through the discussions. I couldn't remember what was being said until my father made comments that infuriated Fiolina's father.

"You want to be added more dowry na hata sijaona matokeo ya Fiolina," he said.

"Matokeo gani?" wondered Fiolina's father. "Huwezi vuna kama hujapanda? Ambia kijana yako apande. Wasichana wangu wengine wote wametoea matokeo. Uliza Andrea mbona Fiolina hana matokeo."

The mood of the discussion

changed after that and the two sides could not agree on anything. In the end it was agreed that I would give Sh6,300 and another Sh1,050 for Fiolina's mother but further dowry discussions would be held after we have our first born.

"Na kijana yangu ufanye hii mambo haraka," Fiolina's father told me just before we left. "Kama kuna shida sema tuku-saidie."

On our way back, my father said that he expected Sh4,000 from me so he could pay the elders.

The money I am getting is purely for the motorcycle and my parents and Fiolina's parents will not be getting even a cent! In the meantime, I will be working hard this April to get results from the laugh of my life!

Almost everyone in the education sector has been complaining about the proposed new Kaimenyi rules in which the Minister is seeking powers to fire non-performing school heads. It is easy to oppose such rules but any teacher who has worked under Bensouda will agree that such rules should have been put in place long time ago. I hope the rules will be passed soon and that the first victim will be Bensouda.

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I KNEW
FIOLINA
WAS
BEHIND
THIS. AND
IT ALWAYS
HAPPENED
WHEN I
EXPECTED
SOME
MONEY"

JOKES

School prefect nick-names:
Micky Mouth, Bridget Fidgett,
Lay Zeebones, Lynn Guist, Lou
Neetunes, Amber Dextrous.

What is a little Vampire's idea of
fast food? Someone with high
blood pressure.

Which game do monsters prefer?
Swallow my leader.

What kind of food do ghosts eat?
Tomb-ato soup, ghoulish, devilled

eggs, and, ice-scream.

Gerry: I seem to be being haunted
by my departed relatives.

Psychiatrist: In what capacity?

Gerry: They perch on top of my
fence posts, and stare at me every
night. Is there a solution?

Psychiatrist: Try sharpening the
tops of those posts.

Ben: How much will you charge to
paint my house?

Mike: \$7,000.

Ben: Are you a grand-son of
Michaelangelo? It used to cost only
\$200.

Mike: Well, that was when
Abraham Lincoln took power.

Gilly: How did the affair start with
your boss?

Nancy: When I complained to
my husband that he was never at
home, he said 'get a hobby.'

Lorna: Are you ready to party yet?

Toddy: I don't want to go.

Lorna: Why not?

Toddy: Because the Snooty Van
Snoots will all be dressed up,
dancing their face-lifts off!

Bernie: You look terrific in that suit.
Maya: Thank you. I bought it for
Lenny's funeral.

Bernie: That was a total waste of
money. He never got to see it.

Maurice: I need to drop about
30 kilo's in one week. Any
suggestions?

Doctor: Yes, but they each involve
explosives.

Maurice: Have you ever been on
a diet?

Doctor: Only once – for the last 27
years.

Compiled by Deja Vu
honjoooolia@hotmail.com

My greatest challenge is how to remain relevant

Gospel artiste Kambua Manundu spoke to Lifestyle about her childhood dreams, her greatest aspirations and music career

What did you want to be when you were growing up?

I always wanted to be a singer. Nothing gave me more joy or satisfaction as singing. I would dream about being on a big stage somewhere singing ... Well, the little girl's dreams have become bigger and better than I imagined.

What did you do for fun as a teenager?

I got involved in lots of activities that appealed to my heart, such as drama and music clubs both at school and church. I also got involved with theatre at Heartstrings Ensemble for a while before joining college.

Who are your role models?

My number one role model is my mother. I admire her strength and her ability to thrive in a most graceful manner. In the music industry my role models include Yolanda Adams, Miriam Makeba (RIP), Esther Wamohome, among others. I am fascinated by their ability to remain consistent and relevant in the industry.

What do you spend most of your money on?

Currently, I am mostly investing in my music.

How has your upbringing shaped your present life?

I was brought up in a Christian home, and these are the values that have guided me throughout my adult life. My faith in God has a lot to do with my upbringing.

How many albums have you released so far?

I have released two albums: *Nishikilie* and *Nyumbani*. I am almost done working on the third CD, with already released singles such as, *Bado Nasimama*, *Umetenda Mema*, *Usiku na Mchana* and, most recently, *Tutaonana Tena* – a tribute to my late father and anyone who has had to deal with the loss of a loved one.

Which are your biggest



WOMAN TO WOMAN

angela oketch



songs?

The songs that seem to have resonated more with people such as *Nishikilie* and *Bado Nasimama*.

Where did you learn music?

My bachelor's degree is in Music. I graduated from Ambrose University College in Calgary (Canada). I also got the opportunity to do a summer performance programme at Berklee College of Music in Boston (US).

What do you love doing in your free time?

I am a book worm. I read a lot of biographies, motivational books, and sometimes

an intriguing fictional book. I also bake a lot and, when I have time, I travel.

What is your day like?

Like most artistes, I don't have a typical day. My days are dependent on the needs to be done — such as studio time, production meetings at work, family, and so on.

What is your greatest challenge?

I would say that my greatest challenge is intentionally working at staying relevant, and not allowing myself to be caught up in a bubble. It's very important for an artist to re-brand and re-invent from time to time.

What do you aspire for most in life?

My greatest aspiration is to encourage people. This is the legacy I hope to leave behind.

Where do you do your shopping?

Everywhere ... Mostly when I travel. But I'm also a firm believer in local designers.

What's your dream holiday destination?

Top on my to-go-to list is: the Caribbean, Spain and Italy. I love visiting exotic places and experiencing new cultures.

How many times do you make your hair in a month?

It depends on what I have on ... I can't really give a regular count.

Name an item you regret buying.

I can't think of anything. The older I get, the more cautious I am on how I spend my money. I try to minimise my regrets.

What do you do with the old handbags, shoes, clothes that you do not put on?

If they are in good condition, I give them away. If not, I get rid of them.

Would you replace your car tyre if you had a puncture?

I would. My dad taught me how. But thankfully I don't have to.

ASIAN SCENE »
ALLAUDIN QURESHI

For the love of Bollywood

IN THE COMPANY of local dignitaries and diplomatic heads of India and Pakistan, an enthusiastic and party happy audience clapped, shrieked and cheered Indian cinema's amazing playback singers and entertainers Badshah Mika Singh and Baby Doll Kanika Kapoor. This musical pop ecstasy reigned supreme at Carnivore Grounds last Saturday as Ranee's Production played host to Bollywood's hottest and exceptionally talented duo.

Kenyan fans of Bollywood music of the present times danced to the rocking beat of popular songs sweetened with lyrical portions of love as they were treated to a thrilling concert at the grounds.

Singing for the first time on our soil, the Baby Doll and 'Chittian Kalaiyan' phenomenal crooner Kanika Kapoor opened the proceedings with thrilling charm, beauty and awesome energy. Singing her chart buster numbers and winning hearts without much ado, she established an instant rapport with the audience. Inviting young and young at heart to join her on stage and dance alongside made her an instant darling of the show revelers.

Badshah Mika Singh followed majestically to rock the audience to greater heights. We have seen him on Kenyan stage before and Bollywood buffs have a special affiliation and love for his songs that never cease to top the charts. Mika lost no time and went on to belt out songs he knows his fans love most. His musical medley of chart busters coupled with electrifying energy was enough to amaze his fans. He was happy coming back and shared his musical delight with the Kenyan party revellers who never ceased shrieking and dancing.

The curtain raiser acts by our own Kenyan singers Manisha Jobanputra and Amar Sachania were tastefully plotted and Gups Saund the loveable DJ and singer made a dashing Master of Ceremonies as he knit the proceedings with his usual charm.

And back to our own home grown entertainment events. This evening at 5 p.m. a Bollywood song game contest takes place at the Oshwal Centre Auditorium in Westlands. Inter Community Antakshri is the name of the game and it is being presented by Kenyan Sindhi Community in association with Fidelity Bank. All are most welcome.

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MOTORING » GAVIN BENNETT

Don't put car in motion before brain is in gear

WHATEVER PEOPLE DO, they usually do it for a reason. It may not be a good reason; it may not be well-informed or thought through, but it's still their "reason" for doing — or not doing — something.

So what, pray, is the "reason" so many motorists driving in heavy rain, mist or thick fog fail to turn on their lights so they can be more clearly seen by fellow road users?

At full stretch, my imagination can think of six possibilities, but we can quickly halve that number of options.

For hopefully we can discount the possibility that they actually want to help cause a crash by remaining invisible.

Surely, too, the reason cannot be that it is physically too strenuous to twist the switch that sends elec-

tricity to the light bulbs. And is it really possible that more than half the vehicles driving around on a rainy or foggy day do not have any lights that work?

A fourth slightly more plausible reason might be bravado: that lights-off drivers somehow think it is courageous or clever to demonstrate their super-human eyesight or skill in poor visibility.

For these, the news is that other road users do not think you are brave or smart. They think two other words, the first beginning with "F" and the second starting with "I".

Option five might be a mistaken view that using lights costs money. That it somehow "wears out" the bulbs, or the voltage regulator, or the alternator, or the battery, or that the recharging loads increase

fuel consumption. Is there any truth in that? Well, yes, to about the same extent that eating food wears out your teeth.

So to those who keep their lights off to avoid infinitesimally small electrical wear and tear (at the risk of death), I suggest you stop eating. Better to die young of starvation than to blemish those pearly whites.

The sixth and final reason, and sadly the most likely and the most depressing, is utter thoughtlessness — either a complete lack of consideration for others and/or an outright failure to correlate engaging gear with engaging the brain.

The former option would stem from the all-too-evident "me first, me only" culture that pervades so much of our road use.

Turning on lights in rain or fog does not improve the vision of the driver the lights belong to. But it is a considerable aid to everyone else, in highlighting the existence and orientation of other vehicles.

The "selfish" driver cannot fail to

notice this, but somehow "reasons" that he or she is under no obligation to reciprocate. What sort of mentality is that?

The latter option (brain use) requires that the driver has not noticed that the lights of other cars are helpful.

And for that to be possible requires the driver to be not merely short of due care and attention but effectively unconscious; in a total and permanent mental stupor.

The same judgement must be passed on those who turn on their sidelights only.

Have they not noticed, by observing other cars, that these are not big enough or bright enough to significantly cut through the fog?

Headlights, please. On dip. Whenever visibility is impaired, however slightly, by any prevailing road, exhaust or climatic condition. There is no "reason" not to.

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Disability took a part of us, but dancing making us whole again

Pamoja Dance Group comprises 11 people with different kinds of physical deficiencies but who use their condition to spread hope

BY MARGARET NJUGUNAH
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Betty Mwendi was diagnosed with polio when she was in Standard Two. The attack was so severe that her mobility is only made possible by use of callipers and clutches. Without them, she cannot move from her waist downwards.

But Betty is one of the most prolific dancers you will encounter anywhere. She has wowed many on stage, ranging from local dignitaries to ambassadors to visiting foreigners for years.

"Betty is an amazing dancer regardless of her condition. This is because she has been able to understand her disability and know where her strength lies which includes her ability to dance on the floor using her abdomen," says Joseph Kanyenje.

Kanyenje is the artistic director of Pamoja Dance Group to which Betty belongs. The group has taken upon itself to raise awareness of the disabled in society through dance.

"Pamoja Dance group consists of 13 people of whom 11 are disabled. The members all have different kinds of disabilities, but the group is a place where they find acceptance and fellowship with one another," Kanyenje tells *Lifestyle*.

He explains: "When you are disabled, society tends to shun you. That is why we came together to begin a conversation about disabled people and how we can include them in our lives." Kanyenje, however, is able bodied.

The dancers attribute their courage and self-acceptance to the day they joined the group. "I have attended numerous therapies to reverse my paralysis but nothing compares to being able to dance with the group," says 33-year-old Lydia Iregi whose left side is paralysed.

"When I was 14, I suffered from Pneumonia. However, the doctors misdiagnosed me and treated me



Sylvester Barasa and Beatrice Wambui dancing on stage during a past performance. They both suffer from polio. PHOTO: PAMOJA DANCE GROUP

for Tuberculosis which left me paralysed," she explains.

Having to adapt to a new life at that age was not easy and Lydia struggled on the bumpy road until she joined Pamoja Dance Group.

Lydia says that her being able to dance with others who are in worse physical condition than her has been a great source of motivation. "Whenever I dance here, I feel like I am releasing a part of me. It is much more than therapy. It is healing and restoration. I therefore thank God for the group because it has made me better and united me to others with whom I am living life to the fullest."

Other members include an amputee, a dwarf, two people with lazy legs

whatever they have. We maximise on what one has and harmonise it with what another person has and turn all these into a dance," says Lydia.

And the art director, Kanyenje, is full of praise for his team, saying the group is near perfect when it comes to following directions. Their ability to express their moods and emotions through dance is part of the reason why they are successful dancers, he adds.

"Most of these dancers have gone through so much. Their physical bodies have been tested, so have their emotions. They have been given labels for most of their lives, mostly negative ones. Dancing gives them a chance to address these issues and to redeem themselves," says Kanyenje.

The type of music they dance to is usually foreign. Hardly do they use music sang in English or local languages.

"We usually dance to music whose language is not familiar to the majority of people in our audience to ensure that they do not get carried away by the words. This enables them to give full attention to the dance itself. From traditional Asian music, to ancient European music, anything we find that has great tune and allows us to deliver our message," Kanyenje tells *Lifestyle*.

The group has rehearsed on different stages such as Ramoma, GoDown Art Centre among others since formation in 2005. However, National Theatre has housed them for the longest duration. The have performed at Alliance Francaise, Goethe Institute, National Theatre, GoDown Art Centre among other places.

They are currently rehearsing at the GoDown Art Centre for their

up coming performance dubbed 'Pasaje' which depicts the dangerous illegal migration of Africans to Europe via boats. The performance will take place on second May at the same venue.

Apart from dancing, the group utilises their platform to reach out to people in the country including societies with able bodied majorities. They have travelled to prisons, orphanages among other places, preaching the gospel of hope.

"My time with the group has taught me to appreciate what I have. Whenever I see someone taking a seat, making a phone call or even crossing the road and assuming it's a normal thing, I am taken back by most of our dancers who do such tasks with much struggle. It makes me appreciate what I have," Kanyenje offers.

An Israeli-Canadian, Miriam Rother, started the group 15 years ago and placed it in Kanyenje's hands upon her departure in 2007. Ms Rother still funds the group. But their finances are not in their best form as the additional money they raise from sale of tickets during performances is hardly ever enough to sustain them.

"This is a major constraint since performances are not every other day and donations are hardly enough to go run the affairs of the group including transport, hiring of venues and promotional services," Kanyenje says.

Members thus, have to find private means of sustenance. Financial constraints have forced most of the members to find other jobs and dance at the group on part time basis. However, three members are at the group on full time basis.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Two Kenyans in race for Commonwealth prize

Two Kenyans are among 22 finalists in the race for the 2015 Commonwealth Short Story Prize, whose winners will be announced on Tuesday. Alexander Ikawah and Muthoni wa Gichuru had made the shortlist selected from 4,000 participants. Ikawah, a filmmaker, hopes his story *April with Oyundi* will win him the £2,500 (Sh350,000) that a regional winner bags or the £5,000 (Sh700,000) that an overall winner takes in the competition. Muthoni has the same dream with her story *The Itch*. Last year's overall winner was Uganda's Jennifer Nansubuga for *Let's Tell This Story Properly*.
— By Elvis Ondieki

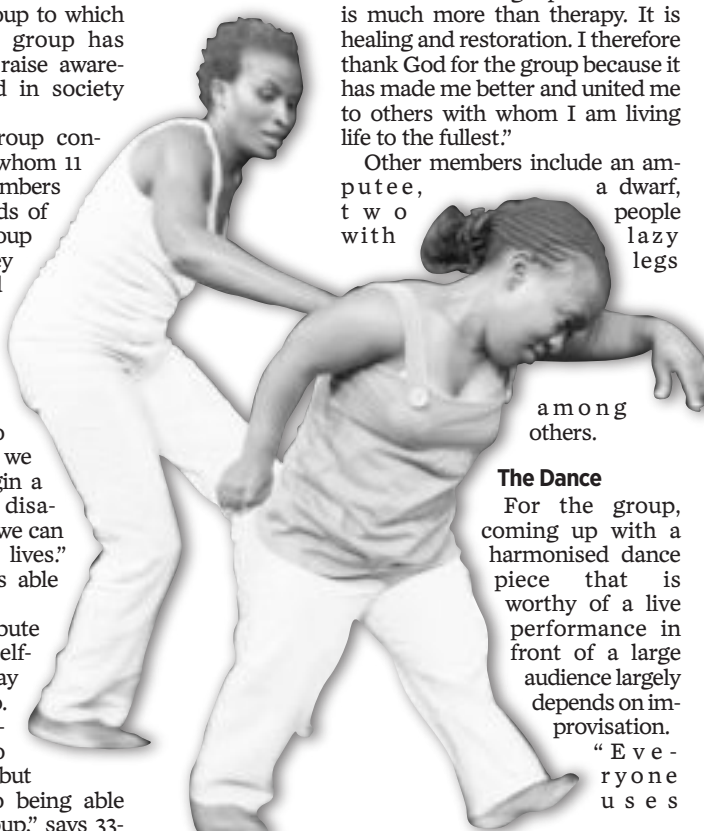
Literature reading at Kwani Trust gardens

The 2014 Etisalat Prize for Literature winner Songeziwe Mahlangu from South Africa and Kenyan writer Henry ole Kulet read from their work and engage in conversation at the Kwani? Sunday Salon at Kwani Trust Office Gardens in Nairobi on May 3. The event will also feature readings from the new *Chimurenga* by 2014 Caine Prize winner Yvonne Owour, historian Ngala Chome and Kwani Trust Managing Editor Billy Kahora, and live music by Sage. The visiting South African author is the second winner of the Etisalat Prize for Literature. Kulet won the 2013 Jomo Kenyatta Prize for Literature for *Vanishing Herds*.

Here's the list of this year's Pulitzer winners

The winners and finalists of the 2015 Pulitzer prizes were announced on Monday. According to the *Los Angeles Times*, Anthony Doerr won the Fiction Pulitzer for *All the Light We Cannot See*. Elizabeth Kolbert's *The Sixth Extinction* won the non-fiction Pulitzer. Gregory Pardlo's *Digest* took the poetry Pulitzer, and the history honour went to Elizabeth A Fenn's *Encounters at the Heart of the World*. The biography award went to David I Kertzer's *The Pope and Mussolini*.

Compiled by Carlos Mureithi; cmureithi@ke.natimedia.com



Ruth Iregi who is paralysed on the left side dances on stage next to Ruth Mueni who has dwarfism during a past performance by Pamoja Dance group. PHOTO: PAMOJA DANCE GROUP

TELEVISION



5:00 AL-JAZEERA
6:00 Worker's Prayer
6:20 Tumsifu
9:00 Qusifu
12:05 Gozomo

1:00 Toleo La Mchana
1:30 Bunge la Wazalendo
2:00 Dunia Ina Mambo
2:30 Movie
4:05 Safari 47
4:30 Sigana Moto Moto
5:00 Maisha Bure
6:00 Moto

7:00 Karibu Customer
7:30 Family Ties
8:00 Mwisho Juma Na Walibora
8:30 Mkulima Ni Ujuzi
9:30 Movie:
11:30 AL-JAZEERA

CITIZEN TV

5:00 Pambazuka 6:00 Gospel Sunday Live 13:00 Live At 1 13:30 Shamba Shape Up 14:00 Inspekta Mwala - Classics 14:30 Tahidi High - Classics 15:15 Machachari - Classics 15:45 Papa Shirandula - Classics 16:15 Mother In Law - Classics 17:00 Naswa 18:00 The Wedding Show 19:00 Nipashe Wikendi 19:30 Mother In-law 20:00 Mentir Para VirVir 5 21:00 Sunday Live 22:00 What Life Took From Me 23:00 Afrosinema 1:00 Citizen Late Night News 2:30 Afrosinema

KTN TV

6:00 Tukuza Live Gospel Show 9:00 Voice of Jubilee 1:00 Lunch Time News 1:30 Sunday Animated Classics: 3:00 Roses and Thorns 4:00 Mbiu Ya KTN 4:10 Roses and Thorns 5:00 Samantha

Bridal Show 6:00 Property Show 6:30 KTN Leo 7:30 Junior 8:00 Los Rey 9:00 KTN Weekend Prime 10:20 Movie 11:00 Baseline 12:00 IAAF/CNN

KBC TV

5:00 BBC 5:30 Turning Point 6:00 In Touch Ministries 7:00 Hadithi za Mungu-Joseph 9:00 Celebration Times 9:30 Jijenge Imani Yako 10:00 Worship Experience 11:00 Homegrown 1:00 KBC Lunchtime News 1:30 Classmates 2:00 The Bible-Jesus 3:30 Mkulima SS2 4:00 Kwa Raha Zangu 5:00 Sundowner 6:00 The Mansion 7:00 Taarifa 7:30 First Family 8:00 The Scoop 8:30 Mr. Box Office 9:00 Channel 1 News 10:00 Turning Point 10:30 CCTV 11:30 Worship Experience 12:30 BBC



TODAY

5:00 One Cubed
6:00 One Voice
6:30 Mamlaka Hill Chapel
7:30 One Voice
9:30 Refreshing Times
10:00 Crossover 101
1:00 NTV at 1
1:30 #the Trend
3:00 Awesome
3:30 The XYZ Show
4:00 Churchill Raw
4:30 Woman Without Limits
5:30 The N-Soko Property Show
6:00 Mali
6:30 Ndoa
7:00 NTV Jioni
8:00 Churchill Show
9:00 NTV Weekend Edition
10:00 Movie
12:00 CNN



N-SOKO PROPERTY SHOW @ 5:30PM

In the past six years, buildings collapsing across the country have killed more than 350 people and injured many more. Contractors have been largely blamed. This Sunday, we engage a professional contractor on the construction process and measures to put in place to avoid such disasters. Also we feature significant homemade Easter symbols that you can make at home and a 3 bedroom maisonette in Ruiru. With Janet Kanini Ikua.

CINEMA GUIDE

NAIROBI

FOX CINEPLEX-SARIT CENTRE

SCREEN I
'PADDINGTON' (TBA)
11AM, 1.45PM
"PAUL BLART: MALL COP 2" (P/G)
4.25PM
'LONGEST RIDE' (TBA)
6.25PM
"MR X" (U/16)
9.10PM

SCREEN II
"FAST AND FURIOUS 7 " (U/16)
11AM, 4PM , 9PM
"RUN ALL NIGHT" (ADULTS)
1.45PM, 6.45PM

CENTURY CINEMAX JUNCTION, NGONG ROAD

SCREEN I
'CINDERELLA" (2D) (P/G)
12.00PM, 2.15PM
"LONGEST RIDE" (2D) (PG)
4.30PM, 7PM, , 9.45PM

SCREEN II
FAST AND FURIOUS 7 " (2D)
(U/16)
10.45AM, 1.30PM, 4.15PM, 7PM, 9.45PM

SCREEN III
'PADDINGTON' (2D) (16)
11.45AM, 1.45PM, 3.45PM
"MALL COP" (2D) (16)
5.45PM, 7.45PM,
"RUN ALL NIGHT" (2D) (PG)
9.45PM

SCREEN IV
"HOME" (3D) (G/E)
11.30AM, 1.30PM, 3.30PM
"PROJECT ALMANAC2" (16)
5.30PM, 7.45PM, 9.45PM

PLANET MEDIA, PRESTIGE PLAZA, NGONG ROAD

"PROJECT ALMANAC" (TBA)
4.30PM, 9PM
"THE LONGEST RIDE" (TBA)
6.10PM, 8.50PM
"PADDINGTON" (TBA)
11AM, 12.50PM, 2.40PM
"MALL COP" (TBA)
1.50PM
"RUN ALL NIGHT" (18)
3.50PM
"FAST AND FURIOUS 7 " (16)
1.20PM, 6.30PM
"HOME" (3D)
11.30AM
"MR X" (2D) (16)
3.40PM

IMAX KENYA CINEMA, NAIROBI

"KINGSMAN" (DMR) 7AM
"INSURGENT" (3D) 9.30AM
"FAST AND FURIOUS 7" (DMR)
12PM, 2.20PM, 5PM, 7.40PM, 10.20PM
"SEVEN DAYS IN HEAVEN" (HD) (ARFA LOUNGE)
1PM, 3PM, 5PM, 7PM, 9PM

KISUMU

PLANET MEDIA CINEMAS, NAKUMATT MEGA CITY MALL

"PROJECT ALMANAC" (TBA)
4.30PM, 9.45PM
"PADDINGTON" (TBA)
11.10AM, 2.45PM
"RUN ALL NIGHT" (18)
1.30PM, 6.30PM
"FAST AND FURIOUS 7 " (16)
3.40PM
"THE LONGEST RIDE" (TBA)
8.40PM
"MR X-3D"BOLLYWOOD (TBA)
6.10PM
"MALL COP 2" (TBA) 1PM

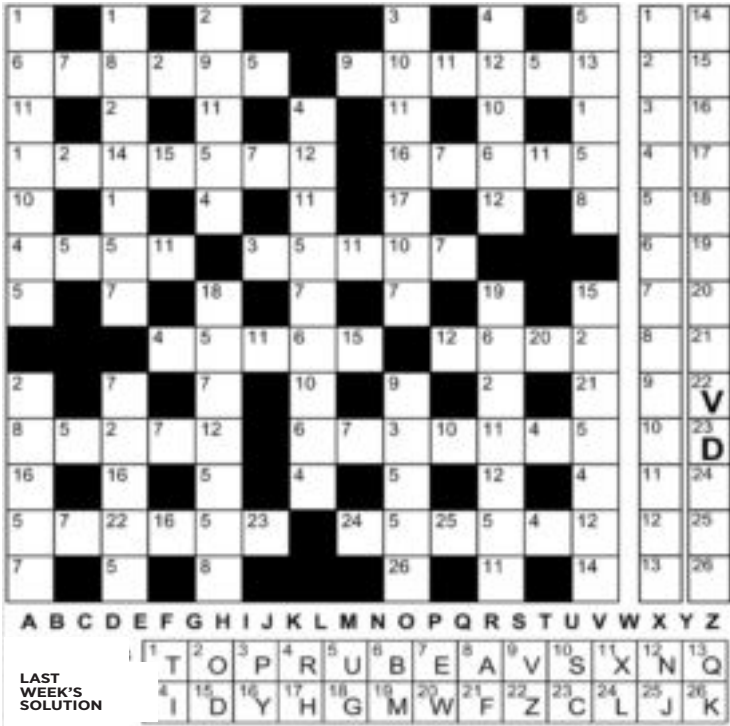
MOMBASA

NYALI CINEMAX-MOMBASA

'DHARAM SANKAT MEIN"
10.30AM
"MR X" (2D)
10.45AM
"HOME" (2D)
2PM
"PAUL BLART: MALL COP 2"
2 PM
"PADDINGTON"
4PM
"FAST AND FURIOUS 7 "
4PM, 6.15PM, 9PM
"THE LONGEST RIDE"
6.45PM
"RUN ALL NIGHT"
9.15PM

CODEWORD

Each number in our codeword grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. For example, today 22 represents V so fill in V every time the figure 22 appears. You have one letter in the control grid to start you off. Enter it in the appropriate squares in the main grid, and then use your knowledge of words to work out which letters should go in the missing squares. As you get the letters, fill in other squares with the same number in the main grid and control grid. Check off the list of alphabetical letters as you identify them. Solution in next week's paper.



SUDOKU

Sudoku with Steers

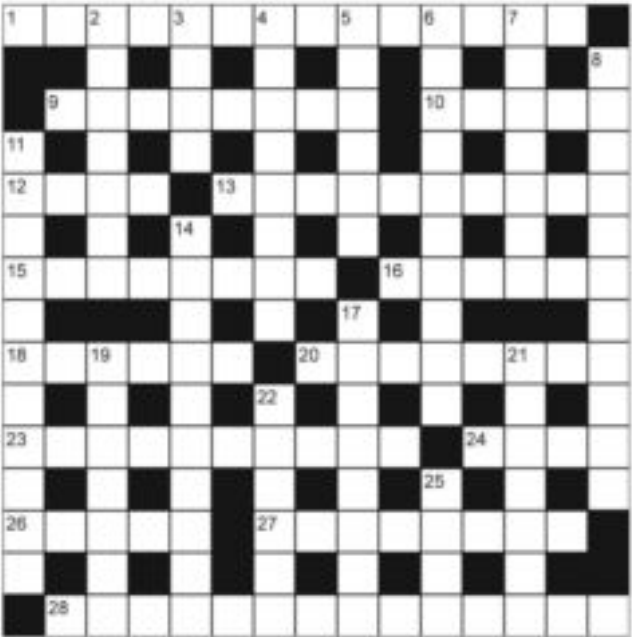
Two winners get a Free Meal with Steers daily on 20567! Fill in the 3 shaded digits and send the values ABC to 20567 for your chance to win a Free Meal with Steers. Start the SMS with the word Sudoku e.g Sudoku 1,2,3 Check your Wednesday paper to see if you are a winner. Winners will be contacted directly by Steers within 2 weeks to receive their prize.
SMS cost: 10/-



Yesterday's solution



SENIOR CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1 Stones' leader? He's a card (4,2,8)
9 Perfectionist making jam by the French recipe, in short (8)
10 If recalled, clergyman will return note (5)
12 Part of plant found in grassy area, foliage primarily (4)
13 Obscure extra had to interrupt broadcast (10)
15 Soldiers and supporter entering in test (8)
16 Coming into money, married in country (6)
18 A bit of vinegar licked — it's pungent (6)
20 Girl, learner, getting rope disentangled for jockey? (8)
23 Bet loathed being given order for set meal (5,1'4)
24 I'll leave oil in river, making sport while horsing around? (4)
26 Perch on branch or tubers, twisted at the end (5)
27 Shopkeeper with dog in the back, we hear (8)
28 Novel actions clubmen organised (5,4,5)

DOWN

2 Full pint? Very much so (3,4)
3 Pained expression when penny falls out of pocket (4)
4 Distribution from shop, in manner of speaking (8)
5 Dawn, woman losing head with gold in clasp (6)
6 Legendary Egghead toppled thus? It's unexpected (3,3,4)
7 I had taken the plunge outside Split (7)
8 Contract marriage partner witnessed in reception area (7,4)
11 Beginning of aerial race? (6,5)
14 Note inserted in otherwise identical sort of music (10)
17 General worker, agent losing right to join corporation (8)
19 Blood red, getting cut, on the canvas — massage needed! (3,4)
21 Saying name of dog in lead (7)
22 Keeness shown by Thirty-First's group of outriders? (6)
25 Notice over missing record (4)

Last Week's Solution

Across

1 Creditable
9 Ankh
10 Unassuming
11 Asleep
12 Dumpst
15 Beastie
16 Monad
17 Wise
18 Weep
19 Ceded
21 Auction
22 Lighter
24 Delves
27 Tourmaline
28 Urge
29 Restaurant

Down:

2 Rend 3 Dustup 4 Tourism 5 Bait
6 Engaged 7 Insentient 8 Shopkeeper 12 Downandout 13 Musicology 14 Token 15 Bagel 19 Coaster 20 Dilemma 23 Howler 25 Anon 26 Cuts

POPEYE



FLASH GORDON



PHANTOM

